The National Future Farmer

Published by the Future Farmers of America

December January, 1985-86

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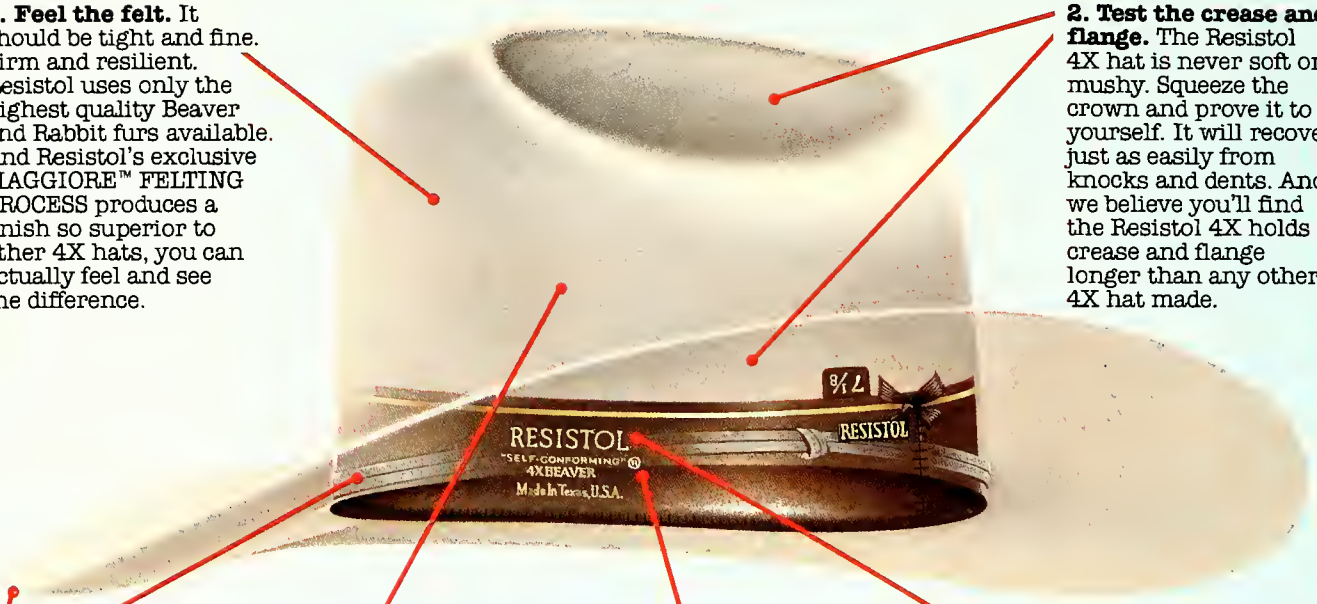

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The National Future Farmer
Published by the Future Farmers of America

December-January, 1985-86
Volume 34 Number 2 ISSN 0027-9315

A Word With The Editor

FFA continues to look for new and better ways to serve its membership. This is particularly important in today's agriculture when "high-tech" moves in at a rapid rate while agriculture is under stress.

One tool available to help deal with the problems is the computer. The number of computers found in the classrooms of vocational agriculture nationwide is increasing. But ag teachers have experienced some difficulty in finding adequate software.

To help with this problem, the FFA has started a new program to aid teachers in finding the right software at a reasonable price. It is called ACCESS.

Your advisor can subscribe to this new service and received these benefits:

- The opportunity to preview software through the ACCESS library.
- A catalog of educationally discounted ag software.
- A subscription to a computer newsletter called *ACCESS INTERFACE*.
- Software reviews.
- An ACCESS software review directory.

Your advisor can get more information by writing to Dwight Horkheimer, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. The cost of ACCESS membership is $45.00 plus a minimum deposit of $20.00 to cover postage cost of mailing software for reviews.

Congratulations to Jack Pitzer, senior editor, who was elected vice president president elect of the American Agricultural Editors Association, at their meeting in Chicago, October 27-28. AAEA is the professional organization for farm magazine editors and people in related positions dealing with agricultural information. The association puts a lot of emphasis on professional improvement to help editors better serve farmers and ranchers through their publications.

Wilson Carnes

In This Issue

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The Cover: *Cover Photo by Bill Stagg*
Students at the Evergreen FFA Chapter are tutored by programmer and software author Steve Cameron. (See Steve's story on Page 20.)

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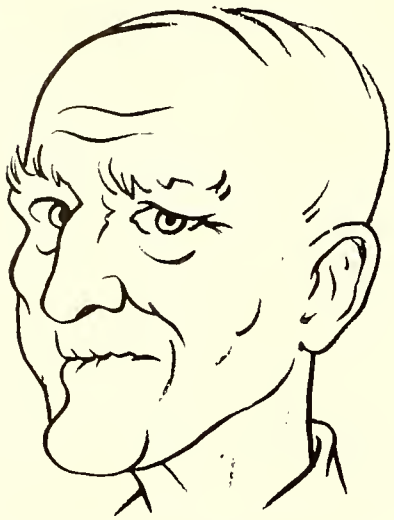

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The FFA News in Brief

FFA Launches ACCESS

The Agricultural Computer Connection & Educational Support Services (ACCESS) was launched at the recent national FFA convention. Operated by the National FFA Supply Service to support agricultural education, the new subscription service will provide ag education with discounted software, a software preview library, reviews of software, and a periodic newsletter.

For more information about ACCESS, contact Dwight Horkheimer at the National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Safety Awards Come to FFA

The National Safety Council's Youth Advisory Committee has announced special recognition for seven local FFA chapters.

An Award of Honor went to the Fairbanks, Ohio, Chapter and to the Miami Trace Chapter in Jeffersonville, Ohio. Awards of Commendation were given to the Gillette, Wyoming, Chapter; the New Holstein Chapter in Madison, Wisconsin; the Chateaugay, New York, Chapter and the Fairfield, Montana, Chapter.

An individual Award of Honor was presented to Mr. Clarence Pearson, vo-ag instructor at Elma, Washington.

New FFA TV Special in the Works

Another national FFA TV special is planned for March, 1986, as part of a nationwide educational campaign to inform the public of the more than 200 challenging and rewarding careers in agriculture. The new show is being developed by Project Clear Window of Chicago, producers of last year's TV special, and will be sponsored by such major agriculture advertisers as Monsanto.

Seven Companies Join National FFA Foundation

The National FFA Foundation has added seven newcomers to its rolls: Automatic Data Processing, Inc.; Rhea & Kaiser Advertising, Inc.; SAME S.P.A.; United Agri Seeds; The National Peanut Council; Pilgrim's Pride Company; and The Rock Plantation, The Rock, Georgia.

These companies join more than 1,000 other sponsors who are putting their faith and support in the FFA. Let them know you appreciate their trust.

Cameron Dubes Leaves FFA

FFA's Director of Information, Cameron Dubes, has left FFA to accept a position as Director of Public Affairs with Youth For Understanding, an international exchange program for high school students based in Washington, D.C. He will have major responsibilities for alumni and media relations.

Dubes headed the national information department for FFA over the past five years and was responsible for coordinating all public relations activities of the organization and operating the newsroom at the National FFA Conventions.

During his tenure, Dubes created an annual national public service announcement campaign, established an audio-visual production unit, and upgraded many of the organization's publications, most notably the Student Handbook and Advisor's Guide to the Student Handbook.

FFA Recognizes Willie Nelson

Country singer Willie Nelson received a special FFA leadership award from National FFA President Steve Meredith during the 19th Annual Country Music Association Awards Show broadcast from the Grand Ole Opry House on Monday, October 14.

Nelson, a former FFA member from Abbott, Texas, was presented the special FFA award for his leadership in organizing the recent September 22 FARM AID concert in Champaign, Illinois. The concert served to draw national attention to the plight of farmers and the pending farm bill legislation.

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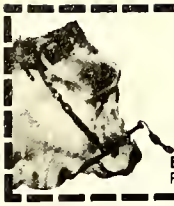

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The Mailbag

Concerns About Ag

I am writing to you as a concerned member. The FFA teaches us about caring, sharing, helping and leadership. These are our jobs as members. I believe we need to set our goals and help the American farmer today. Our local chapter has already begun making plans for fund-raisers for farmers.

Jamey Cheek
Fairfield, Texas

I just had to write and express my concern about American farmers. There has been a controversy about the independent farmers vs the big corporation farmers.

It appears to me that the independent farmers are going broke because no one wants to buy their grain. The reason given is that there is a surplus of grain. If there is so much grain, why are the people in Africa starving to death?

As a student in a farm community I hope an agreement can be worked out and American can become a agricultural nation again.

Earl Robertson
Dalhart, Texas

FFA Appreciation

I have been an FFA member since I was a junior at Allentown High School. I never really realized all that FFA has to offer. It's more than just sitting at a desk and having a teacher preach to you. It's learning while having fun and vice versa. It gives you a different outlook on life.

Now I am out of high school, but I still support my chapter.

Terri Kanczanin
New Egypt, New Jersey

I would like to thank you for the magazine and say that the articles were great. I like your magazine because there are various things you can order.

Leon Smith
Marshall, Virginia

Official Dress

I recently saw the Farm Aid concert to aid troubled farmers. I am personally embarrassed with John Cougar Mellencamp and Randy Owen of Alabama. They both wore FFA jackets that were not zipped. It is in the Official FFA Manual that an FFA jacket is to be worn zipped up. In the state I come from we were always told "zip it up or take it off." Granted this concert will help some farmers and was a good idea. On the other hand, how is the association of FFA supposed to enforce this standard when people seen on television, who were obviously FFA members, don't abide by this?

Fred Buckmaster
Dillon, Montana

Apple Fund Raiser

I am writing in response to your article about the FFA chapter that has taken over an old apple orchard (October-November, 1985).

This fall the North Posey FFA Chapter bought apples from a local orchard owner and resold them much like their citrus fruit sales. The apple sales were very successful and they plan to make it an annual fund raiser.

Jason Overton
Poseyville, Indiana

This letter was received via the Ag Ed Network.—Ed.

Seeks Info

I would like to inquire about the magazine. My school, Woodlawn High School in Shreveport, Louisiana, has closed down the agricultural class. I would still like to receive the magazine.

Derick Bates
Shreveport, Louisiana

Mystery Film

My son attended the 1984 FFA National Convention. Upon his return we developed film he had taken on his trip. One roll of film we developed was not his. I have no idea how to get this film to the rightful owners except by publishing a picture in *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. Can you help us?

Mrs. Larry Graves
Bliss, Idaho

This is one of the pictures. If you recognize the scene, contact us with identification of other photos on the film.—Ed.

Reprint Request

The article "Getting Involved" in your August-September issue would be of great interest to our type of readers. We would like to do a reprint of it in our Winter issue. Thank you.

Leo C. Pachner, President
Professional Sportsmen's Publishing Company
Momence, Illinois

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to: MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.

JOIN THE ARMY FOR TEN MINUTES.

What do you think it's like, when a person joins the Army? You can find out what it feels like right here. Just join the Army for the next six pages.

TODAY IS DAY ONE.

Today is the day you start to find out what it feels like. Your first step might be the hardest to take: going to visit an Army recruiter. But remember, he's not there to sell you on the Army, he's there to tell you about it. His job is to recruit people, of

course, but part of doing that job is to make sure that young people with questions receive complete, truthful and helpful answers.

He has a computer terminal, videodiscs, videocassettes and a wide range of pamphlets dealing with Army training, benefits, duty stations around the world, and, not incidentally, ways to use Army service to earn large amounts of money for college.

Count on him to tell you some ways that your interests and your qualifications might match up with opportunities in the Army.

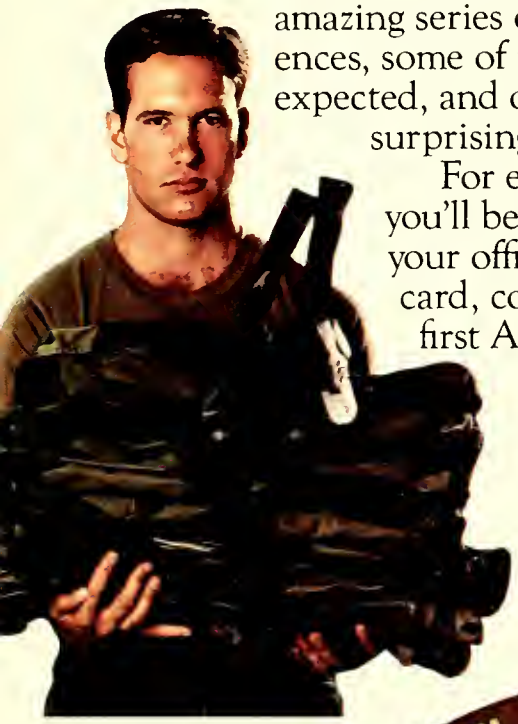
It's a conversation that could play a big part in shaping your future.

If you do decide to enlist, your agreed options will be guaranteed. In writing.

Eventually you will raise your hand and be sworn in as a soldier on active duty in the United States Army.

THE ARMY HAS AN INTERESTING RECEPTION PLANNED FOR YOU.

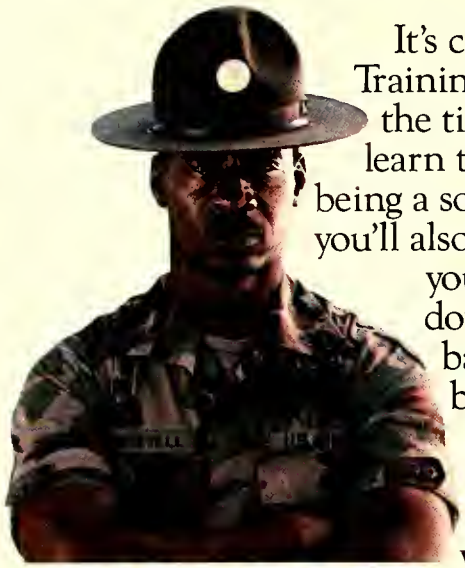
You (and the hundreds of others who joined with you today) will be given a reception that's an amazing series of experiences, some of them expected, and others very surprising.



For example, you'll be issued your official I.D. card, collect your first Army pay, and be fitted for your uniforms. Yes, *fitted*. Carefully. For two reasons: 1.) you'll want to stand tall and look good as a soldier, and 2.) the Army wants exactly the same thing from you. And that means carefully fitted uniforms.

This day will end with the preliminaries for Basic Training.

TODAY YOU START TO FIND OUT WHY THEY CALL IT "BASIC."



It's called Basic Training because it's the time when you learn the basics of being a soldier. But you'll also feel as if you're getting down to the basics of *life*: building up your body and shaping up your mind, while you're picking up the elements of soldiering.

When you and the others step off the bus and meet the person in the campaign hat—your Drill Sergeant—the chances are pretty good that you'll be nervous.

Your Drill Sergeant will be the center of your life for these next weeks. Your leader, teacher, boss, mentor, coach, disciplinarian, and instructor in everything that's Army.

Your Sergeant will take you through 8 weeks of running, training, shooting, marching, lectures, bivouac, maneuvers, patrols, and more running.

It'll be a tough, stressful, high-pressure blitz of a time. You may even wonder, from time to time, whether you can make it all the way through.

You can.

And the day you do, you'll experience a fantastic sense of accomplishment and well-being.

That's Basic.

THERE ARE ALMOST 300 FUTURES IN THE ARMY. YOURS BEGINS TODAY.

There are actually nearly 300 different jobs available in the Army (they're called Military Occupational Specialties.) Some amount of training is required for each of them.

There are far too many to list here; so just to choose one area as an example, let's say you've chosen the field of communications electronics. If you look around at what's happening in the world of communications, you can't help concluding that it's an area with a tremendous future. And right now the Army offers opportunities for training and experience in 16 different specialties within the communications electronics field.

Suppose you've chosen (and qualified for) the specialty known as 31V, which carries the imposing title, "Tactical Communications Systems Operator/Mechanic."

After your Basic Training, you'll attend 14 weeks of school to learn the fundamentals of 31V. It'll be solid technical work, mixed with plenty of hands-on experience, overseen by expert instructors and using the latest instruments, tools, techniques and equipment, not to mention a wide range of learning aids and simulators.

OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AND INTO THE FIELD.

In your case, the "field" is everywhere the Army puts tactical communications equipment. Usually that would mean multichannel voice radio gear and wire communications networks.

It's a complex, fascinating and challenging arena, where the theory and practice of your classroom work will soon be translated into daily accomplishment.

And that's a great feeling: as the knowledge and skills you've acquired continue to develop and expand, you feel yourself picking up expertise and confidence in an area you can carry with you into the future.

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY IS NOT THE ARMY WAY.

By now you know the Army is definitely no 8-to-5 job. But there are limits to the work day, and you do get ample time off.

You also get plenty of things to do.

Whether your interest runs to sports, crafts, study, carpentry, working on your car or working out, you'll find much opportunity, and lots of facilities, for enjoying your choices in your spare time.

Many posts have space and tools where you can take down, restore, and maintain your car or your motorcycle.

On a typical Army post you'll also find all kinds of gear for just about any sport you can name, from pumping iron to swimming laps. There will be workshops, movies, and courses to take; and many posts have clubs for those who love (or want to learn) flying, sky-diving, skiing, scuba and other action sports.

So you can see that there's plenty to do when you're off duty.

What's more, you earn 30 days leave per year, including your first year.

Now, how many jobs can you name that start like that?

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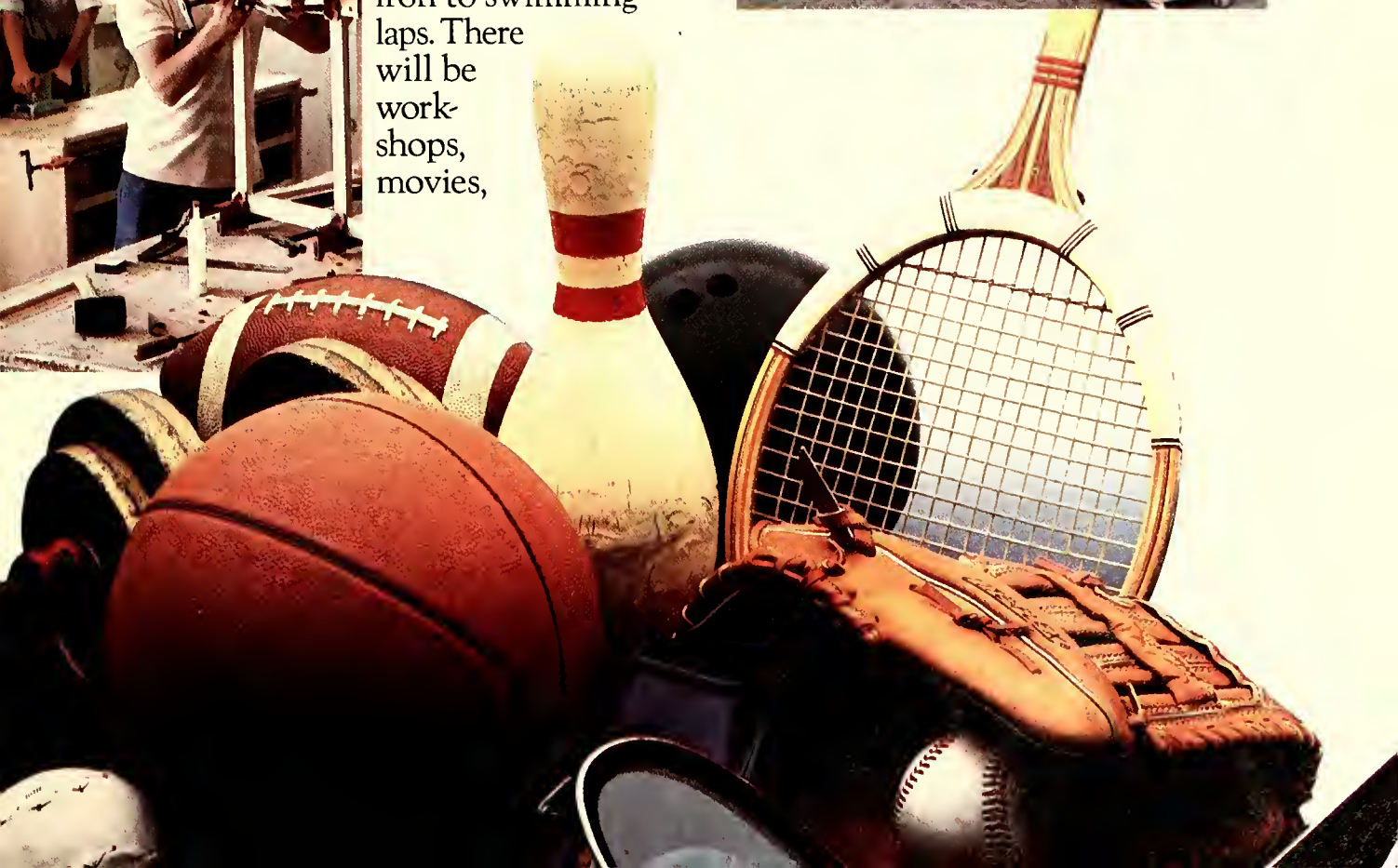


GRADUATE FROM BASIC BEFORE YOU GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

You can do it if you take advantage of the Army Reserve's Split Training Option.

You'll spend the summer after your junior year in basic training. Shaping up. Your body will become stronger. And your mind will become sharper.

Then you'll spend the summer after your senior year learning one of hundreds of valuable skills. Skills you'll use one weekend a month at an Army Reserve Center close to home. And eventually take to college or to your full-time job.

And to top it off, you'll be making good money while you're still in high school.

But the real payoff is discovering a feeling deep down that whatever lies ahead after graduation, you'll be ready for it.

ARMY RESERVE.
BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

Looking Ahead

World Water Crisis Looms

Unless greater efforts are made to increase water efficiency, water shortages will limit agricultural output and economic growth, according to a new study by Worldwatch Institute, a Washington-based environmental research group.

High costs and environmental risks are making traditional water supply projects increasingly unattractive and hard to implement, the study found.

Worldwide, the efficiency of irrigation systems averages only 37 percent. Much water is lost as it is conveyed from reservoirs to farmlands and applied to fields. Since 1950, global irrigated lands have nearly tripled.

Computers Satisfy Owners

Farmers using computers are apparently satisfied with their investments, according to a recent reader survey conducted by *Agricultural Computing* published by *Doane's Agricultural Report*.

About 87 percent said their computer had already paid for itself, and 31 percent of the remaining respondents said it would do so within the next year. Two-thirds of the responding farmers were in the 25 to 44 age group and operated larger than average farms.

Most respondents have spent well over $2,000 on hardware and almost half have invested more than $1,000 in software. Learning to use the system did not seem to be an obstacle as 87 percent said they were comfortable with their machines within 12 weeks.

Farmers Favor Smaller Federal Role in Agriculture

The nation's farmers are ready to wean themselves off government price support programs and agricultural subsidies, provided adequate support exists during the critical transition to a purely market-driven farm economy.

That's the conclusion of a wide-ranging nationwide telephone survey of 200 farmers conducted by a market research firm retained by United Agri Seeds.

Only 36 percent of farmers favor a key role for government in providing price supports and just 39 percent want government involvement in set-aside programs. However, only 40 percent of them believe the government can reduce its financial commitment to agriculture within five years.

SATISFIED CUSTOMERS: Most owners say their computers have paid for themselves, according to a reader survey conducted by *Agricultural Computing*.

Farm Survival Discussed

Dr. Bill Black, an economist in marketing and policy with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, outlines a few key points for economic survival in farming as he views changes in the coming years:

- Become part of an integrated system—the most common way to forward contract. Find a home for what you produce before you plant.
- Learn to manage a business, not just a farm. You can't rely on land appreciation for equity accumulation.
- Be on top of technological changes in biotechnology and new management developments.
- Be outlook-oriented, futuristic. Seek information and analyze what you get.
- Control risk and exposure—either by selling ahead or pricing ahead.
- Grow as fast as your equity permits, and remember, equity won't come from rising land prices.
- Finally, spend more time managing than riding the tractor. Don't produce for an unknown market.

Food Prices Rise (Slowly)

Government reports indicate that food prices are rising at a slightly slower rate than in 1984, the result of large supplies of many farm foods, particularly meats. In addition, the rate of increase in disposable personal income has slowed, reducing the upward pressure on consumer demand. Total per capita food consumption is expected to increase 0.3 percent by the end of 1985.

Soil Compaction Reduces Yields

A hidden culprit in reduced yields this year may be soil compaction, according to ag consultant Lance Murrell of Indiana. An Iowa State University study in the late '60s showed that compaction reduced potassium uptake of a corn plant by 70 percent and nitrogen uptake by 30 percent.

Working a wet soil too early and too often will cause soil compaction. "The disk is the greatest compaction tool on the farm and it *always* adds to compaction," says Murrell.

"Fountain of Youth" for Cut Flowers

A little-known chemical increases the life of cut flowers by suppressing a hormone responsible for aging in plants, according to USDA researchers. They found that the chemical, aminooxyacetic acid (AOAA), prevents a plant's production of ethylene, a hormone that starts the ripening and aging of flowers, fruits and vegetables.

Tests of carnations showed that AOAA tripled the number of days after cutting that flowers stayed fresh and attractive, compared to leaving the cut plants only in water, and, when added to commercial preservatives, doubled the time that preservatives kept the plants fresh.

Currently, AOAA is available only to industry and research organizations. Federal approval of the chemical is needed before it will be available to florists.

Legends of the New West™

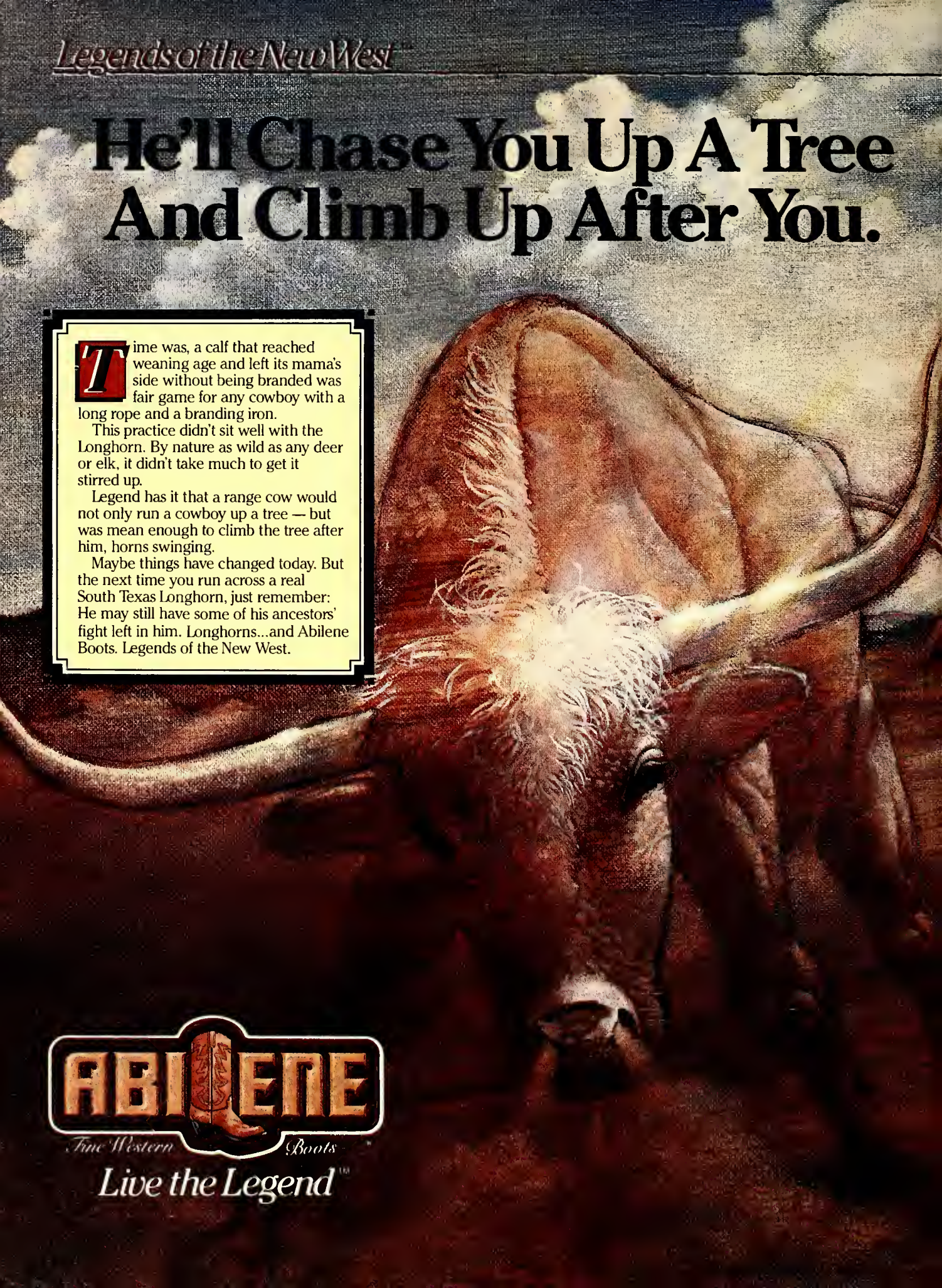
He'll Chase You Up A Tree And Climb Up After You.

Time was, a calf that reached weaning age and left its mama's side without being branded was fair game for any cowboy with a long rope and a branding iron.

This practice didn't sit well with the Longhorn. By nature as wild as any deer or elk, it didn't take much to get it stirred up.

Legend has it that a range cow would not only run a cowboy up a tree — but was mean enough to climb the tree after him, horns swinging.

Maybe things have changed today. But the next time you run across a real South Texas Longhorn, just remember: He may still have some of his ancestors' fight left in him. Longhorns...and Abilene Boots. Legends of the New West.



Farm Management Comes Alive in the '80s

By Glen Richardson

As a stressed farm economy puts the squeeze on producers, vo-ag and FFA responds in the classroom and on the farm with strong, practical lessons in farm management.

FARMERS have spent years debating the economic meaning of farm management, but there has never been any doubt about it in the last 18 months: Unprecedentedly low farm prices mean big management troubles on the farm!

"Farm prices in 1984-85 have been dismally poor, regardless of what standard they are measured against," farm economist Dr. Bob Price told *The National FUTURE FARMER.*

Moreover, the price declines have hit nearly every segment of agriculture. Some examples: The 1984-85 season average corn price will be about $2.65 per bushel, compared with $3.25 in 1983-84. The 1984-85 farm price for soybeans will average just $5.85 per bushel compared with $7.81 in 1983-84. For 1985-86, soybeans are likely to drop as low as $5.05.

Hay is bringing $5-10 per ton below the May 1983-April 1984 average price. But...but...but cheap feed has not sent livestock prices soaring as in past years. In fact, compared to last year, fed cattle prices this fall are averaging $5-10 lower, with only a modest narrowing of that gap expected by early 1986. For all of 1985, the all-milk price is expected to average 60-80 cents lower than 1984's $13.45 per cwt.

Keep Farming Dream

The 1984-85 debacle of the farm economy shouldn't dash the dreams of FFA members who long to farm or work in farm business, say more than a dozen vo-ag teachers from across the nation.

"It does mean that farming and those of us who work with agriculture can no longer keep dancing around farm management's deficit," adds a midwest extension farm economist.

Farmers have been over-achievers in production and under-achievers in farm management, development and planning, admits a state director of vocational agriculture.

"As long as the farmer's outlays continue to run way ahead of his income and as the national debt and its annual interest cost soar, there is a clear and present danger that the farmer faces an irrational market that can cripple any recovery," warns Gail Brown, a partner in Touche Ross & Company, San Francisco.

Farm Management Training

The market's message is finally beginning to get a serious hearing on the farm and in the vo-ag and university classrooms. That message: Managers of today's farm must be trained in processes of business management that are distinct and apart from their unique knowledge of farming, their farm and its immediate environment.

The successful farmer of today and tomorrow must understand and use good management principles as they develop proper objectives for the farm business they manage. That may sound complicated, but in the vo-ag classroom teachers are making it practical with farm visits followed by questions like these:

- What concept of management is presently employed on this farm?
- Which management concepts do you believe could best serve this farm?
- What was the primary objective of this farm?
- Did the farm have secondary objectives?

Set your goals and adjust your sights for farming success in the '80s.

Both vo-ag and university instructors we talked to say that while there is not complete agreement on farm management, most authorities agree that all managers must plan, organize, control, staff, direct, command, supervise, motivate, train, coordinate, delegate, evaluate and correct.

Among all those tasks, Charles Ingraham and Vern Vandemark of the Department of Ag Economics at Ohio State suggest management functions can be grouped into five basic areas: planning, organizing, directing, coordinating and controlling. They say that too often management functions are confused on the farm with business functions such as financing and production, or with marketing functions such as market information, risk taking and selling.

Managers Create Change

Of the five management functions, most experts and several FFA members quizzed say they believe *planning* is the biggest management weakness on today's farm. A textbook defines planning as "the thinking process that precedes an action or doing process in order to achieve the most effective results."

(Continued on Page 22)

Use all available resources in your farm planning such as your vo-ag instructor, company fieldmen, agronomist or other specialist.

Photos by Author

GENESIS OF A PROGRAM: Top, Steve and his FFA advisor, Ray Clevenger, discuss the essentials of a sheep record management system. Below, the opening screen to "Sheep Organizer," the program that Steve wrote to help his mother with the family's sheep herd. Right, Steve edits a new program in his bedroom office.

Programmed for Success

By Bill Stagg

As computers begin to have a major impact on agriculture, learning to use them becomes essential. Steve Cameron has gone one step further and has taught the micro to do his bidding.

If you've ever read a book or watched a movie about the proverbial computer programming whiz, you'll recognize the stereotype.

A computer "nut" sits hunched over an electronic keyboard for hundreds of hours staring at a flickering video screen. Images dance across the display that resemble a cross between Egyptian hieroglyphics and the starfighter chase scenes from "Star Wars." With candy bar and soft drink close at hand, the computer nut seeks to break the code of the military high command's strategic database and play nuclear chess at the peril of the planet. All on his summer vacation.

Welcome back to reality.

At this year's Computers In Agriculture Seminar, 37 FFA members came to Washington, D.C., to represent their states and compete for FFA's highest award in computer accomplishment. Fifteen-year-old Steve Cameron of Lyons, Ohio, surfaced as the national winner and his story throws a revealing light on the world of someone who is decidedly *not* a computer "nut."

Born in Defiance, Ohio, Steve was introduced to microcomputers in the sixth grade when he enrolled in some Saturday enrichment classes at nearby Northwest Technical College. By the time he was in the eighth grade, he was teaching basic programming to older students at a computer camp run by the same school.

It was also while in the eighth grade that his father, Virgil, brought home the family's first computer—an Apple II. Mr. Cameron teaches vo-ag at Evergreen High School near Lyons and figured that since his ag program was about to take up computers he could use one at home to practice on.

That was Steve's lucky break.

"I know there's no way I could have gotten this far without the computer at home," says Steve. "I don't think I would have started reading the books that I did, trying to find out more and then getting the computer to do different things."

Getting the computer to do "different things" has become Steve's specialty. During the past two years, he has started his own software publishing company, written and sold commercial programs, delved into the world of robotics, taught computer programming classes, earned numerous honors for his work in computers and set his sights on making a major contribution to agricultural computing.

"Sheep Organizer"

It was Steve's mother, Gloria, who prompted him to author his first serious piece of software. Mrs. Cameron was managing the family's sheep operation and Steve decided he would try to write a program to help her with the record keeping tasks.

Pete Karzanow of the Jewel Grain Company discusses details of a fertilizer recommendation program with Steve.

Steve solders microprocessors onto a circuit board that will control the model robotic leg that he designed and built from spare parts.

The result was "Sheep Organizer," a program that tracked such vital information on each sheep as type of birth, weight, sire and dam, and ear tag number. With the program, his mother could easily call up information on the computer to cull the least productive animals from the flock.

That first program propelled Steve into the limelight. He was invited to a national computer conference in Dayton to demonstrate the program in 1983. In 1984, it was entered in the Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA) competition and earned first place honors in the computer category.

"I don't think IBM or Apple has to worry about me," says Steve. "At least not right now."

CAMCOM Is Formed

By the end of the eighth grade, Steve was writing custom programs for teachers at school. With such promising business potential, he soon formed CAMCOM, a computer software publishing company created as a sole proprietorship.

The young entrepreneur wasted no time getting under way.

An instructional flashcard program was developed for a Spanish teacher who wanted to be able to change the words used in the program. Soon the French teacher ordered a similar program. Mailing lists and label programs quickly followed.

"You have to start out with an idea—an idea of your own or one that someone gives you," explains Steve. One day Pete Karzanow of the Jewel Grain Company did just that and asked if Steve could write a program that would help him make fertilizer recommendations for his customers. With his dad as technical advisor, Steve sat down and hammered out the first version of "Fertilizer Recommendation," a program that does exactly what its name suggests.

The hallmark of all CAMCOM's software is that the programs are simple in design, easy to use, inexpensive and, most importantly, they do what they are supposed to. Word of mouth advertising does the rest.

"I don't think IBM or Apple has to worry about me," says Steve with a smile. "At least not right now."

The World of Science

Technology has always held a special fascination for Steve. When a local farmer lost a leg in an accident with a corn picker, Steve was convinced that robotics might offer an alternative to the man's wooden leg: "I had seen him walk with it and thought it just didn't look natural," explains Steve. "I thought maybe I could build an artificial leg that would actually move as a person's real leg would. What I want to do is build a circuit that would read muscle movement from your thigh and the computer would tell the motors to move the leg or the ankle however you want it to move."

Steve built a model leg out of balsa wood and spare motors. He is now experimenting with various control routines.

What About Free Time?

With all the hundreds of hours spent programming, one would think that Steve Cameron has little time left for other interests. Not so.

"I don't see myself as a computer nut," stresses Steve. "It's just a hobby that I've stuck with through the years and kept up with all the developments. Computers are just another activity that I'm in."

Indeed, Steve plays high school basketball, was president of his freshman class, is rebuilding a 1967 Camaro, helped put this year's homecoming float together, is a member of the Quiz Bowl team, and is an active FFA member. Not too shabby for a sophomore in high school.

Where to from here? Steve plans to finish high school and enter Ohio State to major in agricultural engineering and computers. After that, he sees himself in his own business designing computer-related applications for tomorrow's agriculture industry.

In the meantime, CAMCOM will keep him busy enough. And busy is what Steve Cameron is all about. •••

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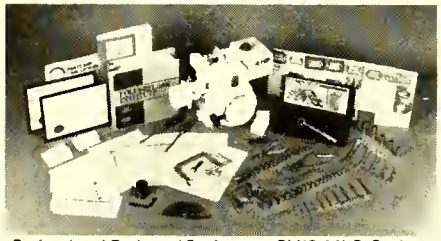

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Farm Management

(Continued from Page 19)

"The successful farm manager creates change—unsuccessful farmers react to change," says Iowa Future Farmer Matt Williams. The difference lies in planning.

"We also need objectives on our farms today," says Michigan farmer Elwood Kirkpatrick. "What are we trying to do? Without objectives for our farm, we have nothing to shoot for and no way to tell if we hit the mark."

Of course, says Kirkpatrick, an objective in terms of total sales dollars or volume of the market has little meaning to the fellow mixing feed. He needs to know what he has to do to help the farm meet its objectives.

Ohio Ag Economists Ingraham and Vandemark say another key area that farmers have ignored is business and economic forecasting. "Each and every one of us is concerned about the future. Yet the future is a very uncertain area, especially in farming," they note. They believe every farmer must be vitally concerned with forecasts, because their future profit or loss is based on making or arriving at sound decisions.

Vo-ag Getting Involved

It is in this area that many vo-ag teachers and FFA advisors are getting increasingly involved. Many vo-ag teachers are working with area farmers on a regular basis. They see the use of FFA's Ag Ed Network by farmers as a natural extension of their regular meeting activities.

"Because of the tremendous volume of information—especially farm business and economic forecasting—that applies to farmers and their farm business, many are eager to see how this tool can assist them in their farming operation," says Larry Squires of AgriData Network.

A good farm manager will know such things as efficiency factors so he will know where he stands.

One way to stay ahead in farm management is to make full use of the resources in your vo-ag classroom.

With new technology such as computers and the use of information networks growing in importance, vo-ag departments continue to be a resource center for farmers to experience this technology and evaluate its application to their operation, agree vo-ag teachers in several states that have adopted this new farm educational tool.

Another trend noted by many FFA members and advisors is that a modern farm business handles thousands of dollars annually and demands more than a kitchen table or the corner of a room.

Several FFA members across the contry have built management centers on their farms, areas designed and equipped to provide the support functions needed for their particular farming operations.

These areas are being planned for information storage and retrieval, for conducting day-to-day operations and for planning future farming activities.

Need Farming Perspective

A Texas vo-ag teacher says the lesson for his students to learn from the current farm bust is that there are "farm boom survivors," farm operators who are tempered by time and a sense of perspective. Farmers and Future Farmers must learn to understand the strains of boom-bust cycles in agriculture. A conservative, unspectacular management style looks a lot bolder today than it did several years ago. By contrast, this teacher notes, many farmers including too many vo-ag graduates leverage their profits pell-mell into rapid expansion by purchasing expensive farmland instead of paying off bank debt and building a cash hoard out of boom-time farm earnings.

"This is the perspective we are giving our Future Farmers because we don't want to be teaching just how to be boom-time American farmers," he observes.

Economic integration and increased cost of resources are placing new demands on Future Farmers. The Future Farmer of today and the American farmer of tomorrow must understand and use good management principles as they develop proper objectives for the farm business they will manage. ●●●

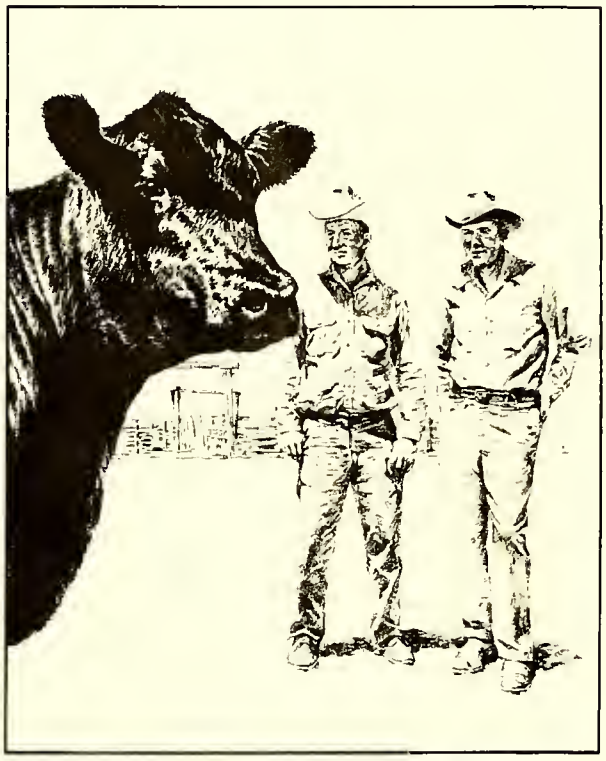
What Breed of Cattle Is Best For You?

If you are planning a career in agriculture, one decision you may have to make is what breed of beef cattle to raise. We can help.

Naturally we at the American Angus Assn. think that Angus offers you more advantages for profit than any other breed. Angus cattle are efficient, produce high-quality beef, are naturally polled, have no cancer eye, the cows are excellent mothers and, the bulls are big and rugged, yet both cows and bulls help reduce calving problems. And Angus are backed by the best, most complete performance records program in the business.

But in the end, it is your decision. You must get the facts, talk to responsible people, and then decide. We will be glad to supply you with information about Angus cattle and the American Angus Assn. that can help you.

You already belong to FFA, the largest agricultural youth organization in the world. So you know the benefits that a large well-run organization can provide its members. The American Angus Assn. is the largest beef cattle registry association in the world, and we have programs and services to help you and train you for the future, and build a strong foundation in the cattle business.



Here are some programs that we offer:

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- Free Information Booklets

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Kevin Wheeler and Bill Simpson with two registered Shorthorns from the herd that carries the FFA brand.

A class in meat cutting taught by Bruce Fraser, left, land lab director, who lives on the site.

The Land Lab-

Where Urban Youth Learn Rural Skills *By L. Anson Wright*

URBAN and suburban high school students often have fantasies about living on a farm. They dream of caring for animals, smelling new-mown hay and harvesting the bounties of fields and orchards. But most of them never get the chance.

There is a place at 13021 S.E. Hubbard Road, Clackamas, Oregon, a suburb of Portland, where they can experience these things. It is called the Land Lab.

This FFA chapter and its "agricultural occupations" center form an integral part of the North Clackamas School District 12.

Nestled in the beginning of the Cascade Mountain foothills just three miles from Clackamas and virtually in the shadow of Mount Hood, "the Farm," as many students call it, sparkles like something out of a storybook with its white board fences, red barns and sheds and its purebred Suffolk sheep, its registered Shorthorn cattle and its Thoroughbred horses.

Bruce Fraser, Land Lab director and coordinator who lives on site with his family, explains, "As far as I can find out, this farm is unique—it's the only one of its kind in this country."

Originally purchased in the 1960s as a site for a new high school, the 65 acres include 20 acres of forest land, fields under cultivation, orchards and buildings. When the school population leveled off, the location became the Land Lab, a very successful part of the school system which includes three high schools; Clackamas, Milwaukie and Rex Putnam - serving approximately 3,500 students.

One of the Land Lab's most successful graduates is Dr. Theresa Westfall, a veterinarian.

"We had a lot of hands-on experience all during school, and that really helped me in med school," she said.

A graduate from high school in 1976, Westfall still likes to reminisce about the farm. "The routine there is varied according to the season and what needs to be done. Classroom work came first though if there was material that needed covering. But we got outside every day," she said.

According to Mr. Fraser, many students "get their heads on straight" at the farm. "Most of our students are from urban areas. But I'll tell you this: When you put them on a farm, something happens to them. There's a change in their whole chemistry," he said.

"Most students come back many times after they graduate. And most of them follow up in an ag-related field. Some 92 percent go into a college ag program or into some farm-related occupation," he said with obvious pride.

Students are enthusiastic when they speak about the farm. Dave Humphreys, an '85 graduate, took the full four years. "We operate and maintain all the machinery and equipment," he said.

The equipment includes three tractors, two flatbed trucks, equipment trailers, irrigation apparatus, a hay baler, plows, disks, planters and cultivators, among others.

Humphreys will be attending Chico State College this school year. He plans to make agriculture his life's work.

Like Humphreys, other students find everything they need here. Facilities include four livestock barns, equipment and machine shop, two agricultural classrooms, one forestry classroom, a meat lab and cooler and an indoor livestock showroom with an observation area.

Nor has the Land Lab escaped the attention of leaders in the agribusiness world. Donations have been generous.

Rick Hoyt & Son, ranchers near Burns in eastern Oregon, donated $29,850 to the school for the purchase of registered Shorthorns. Investing in the future of America, Mr. Hoyt has left an indelible impression on these students.

And how many FFA chapters have Thoroughbreds at their disposal? Milton Kelm, breeder of racehorses, upon retirement donated five Thoroughbreds to the Land Lab, including Crusty John, a stud valued at $25,000.

"Oregon State University really wanted the horses," said Kelm, "but after I'd seen the work at the Land Lab and the attitudes of the students, I hesitated. Then when I found out they had no horses, that settled it. "I kept my best horses until the last and then donated them to the school," he said.

Jeff Babikoff, class of '83, exemplifies one of the students. He had always been interested in animals, but he confided that he "didn't know the difference between a heifer and a steer" when he started at the Land Lab as a sophomore.

Now Babikoff is employed by Stoeklin Supply Company, a three-state wholesale firm which caters to all the animal needs of veterinarians, schools and farms.

In 1981, Babikoff, representing the Land Lab FFA Chapter, showed the grand champion steer at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition in Portland. He also won the grand champion pig carcass in '82 as well as many pennants in state and county fairs.

Achievement of FFA members at the Land Lab have won recognition on

(Continued on Page 37)

NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS FOR 1985-86

Rick Malir, President, Kansas

Coby Shorter, Secretary, Texas

Rick Malir, 21, of Wilson, Kansas, is the National FFA President for 1985-86. Rick served as president of his state and was a member of the National FFA Band. His supervised occupational experience (SOE) program includes beef cattle, milo and wheat enterprises.

He gained Capitol Hill experience while serving as a U.S. Senate Legislative Intern for Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole.

Rick attends Kansas State University majoring in agricultural economics.

Coby Shorter, III, 19, of Eagle Lake, Texas, is the National FFA Secretary. Coby's SOE included raising and exhibiting swine. He also developed an outstanding herd of Simmental cattle.

Prior to serving as state association president, he participated in prepared and extemporaneous public speaking contests. He served as organist at the 1983 and 1984 national conventions. Coby is a freshman at Texas A&M University.

Robert W. Weaver, 20, of Hartselle, Alabama, is the Southern Region Vice President. Robert's SOE consisted of dairy production management. His work involved managing the feeding operations, assisting with milking, and managing hay operations.

In 1982-83, Robert served as president of the state Association.

Robert attends Auburn University, and is in Auburn University's Collegiate FFA.

Kevin Coffman, 20, of Holliday, Missouri, is the Central Region Vice President. Kevin has just completed a term as state president.

Kevin's farming program involves a commercial farrow-to-finish hog operation and a registered cattle herd. He was a winner in swine proficiency and in the farm business management contest. Kevin has had the opportunity to serve on the Governor's Advisory Council on Agriculture.

Kevin studys at the University of Missouri–Columbia majoring in agricultural economics and agricultural education.

Cindy Blair, 20, of Noble, Oklahoma, is the newly-elected national vice president of the Western Region. Her SOE includes Hampshire sheep, Duroc swine and a commercial cattle operation. Cindy has been recognized as the state sheep proficiency winner, and the regional diversified livestock production winner.

Cindy served as state FFA president and secretary. She won state championships in two public speaking divisions and placed second in extemporaneous public speaking nationally.

Cindy attends Oklahoma State University majoring in agricultural economics and accounting.

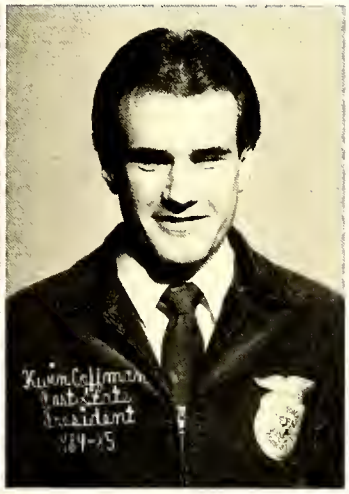
Kipling Godwin, 20, of Whiteville, North Carolina is the Eastern Region Vice President of the FFA. Kip's farming program includes a variety of crops and livestock and earned him two state agricultural proficiency awards. He has also worked many hours on his family's farm in corn, tobacco, sweet potatoes, poultry and swine.

Kip served as state president. Through his six years as an FFA member, he has been involved in public speaking, parliamentary procedure, and livestock judging contests.

Kip attends North Carolina State University where he is a junior majoring in agricultural education.

Robert Weaver, Southern Vice President, Alabama

Kevin Coffman, Central Vice President, Missouri



Cindy Blair, Western Vice President, Oklahoma

Kip Godwin, Eastern Vice President, North Carolina

The Municipal Auditorium was filled to overflowing capacity and many members watched the action via video in an adjacent auditorium. The larger crowd than 1984 spread blue jackets everywhere you looked in Kansas City.

BIG, BRIGHT, BLUE AND GOLD

Capacity crowds, on-target speakers, enthusiastic FFA members, hard work behind-the-scenes and the reenactment of many traditions marked the 58th National FFA Convention.

By Jack Pitzer

THE spotlight picked out one blue jacket amid thousands in the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. The booming voice of the national secretary announced to all, "The national winner is ...."

Flashbulbs popped while cheers and whistles came from all around. A monumental moment in the life of one FFA member and just one fleeting moment at the 58th National FFA Convention.

Steve Meredith displayed admirable qualities of leadership during the convention, both as presiding officer and as a fluent spokesman for agriculture.

Big seems such a little word to describe the week of awards, competitions, famous speakers and entertainers, laughter and tears, and the bundled-up energy of 21,766 high schoolers.

Little wonder FFA members ran a "wave" around the balcony of the auditorium before the Thursday evening session began. Later, the audience stood spontaneously, locked arms—members, parents, advisors and sponsors all joined to sway and sing along with the National Chorus performing "We Are The World." It was the audience's way to express their beliefs in American agriculture and feeding the world.

For the retiring national officers, the week climaxed 271 days of successful service to the membership of this national student organization. Steve Meredith led his officer team through the business sessions and ceremonies with polished delivery and professionalism. Their retiring addresses will be remembered as the "spark" or "turning point" for many individual members in the audience.

Voting delegates took the bull by the horns and made some important decisions for the future of the FFA. They recommended an increase in national dues from $2.50 to $3.00 in order to let the organization continue its leadership role in vocational education.

They also adopted a change in the constitution so that states meeting their quota of American Farmer Candidates may submit five additional, ranked, qualified candidates for consideration to fill quotas not met by other states.

Just prior to the opening of the convention session, the national officers and board of directors met to transact their business. They recommended the approval of a new state association and chartered the District of Columbia Association with five chapters. Their delegates were officially seated in the delegate body on Thursday.

Blue and gold jackets were seen everywhere within 45 miles of Kansas City. Tours of agribusiness firms and local sights like the Truman Museum in Independence, the Ag Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs and the Royals and Chiefs stadium were popular attractions.

In addition, the national judging contests, including a brand new forestry contest, were held all around town. There were 23 teams in the first national forestry contest which was established to develop forest and wood products management and marketing skills in FFA members.

Announcement of the Star Farmer Mike Arends, Willmar, Minnesota, left, and Star Agribusinessman Scott Cochran, Lavonia, Georgia, was a high point during the convention. Their complete stories appeared in the October-November issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*. Each of them received $2,000 from a fund created by executive sponsors of the National FFA Foundation. Your chapter should request the audio-visual show about the Stars for your chapter.

All week the emphasis of speakers, the Career Show, judging contests and even operation of the convention news room and registration centered around computers. Members and their advisors were quick to find hands-on opportunities.

Winners of the ten national contests are announced on page 29 of this issue. Two chapters each won two contests this year. Atascadero, California, won livestock and dairy foods. Bear Creek, North Carolina, won floriculture and nursery/landscape. Also on that page you'll find the names of members who reached the top in 29 proficiency areas recognized by FFA. A selection committee of business and industry leaders and vo-ag educators were assembled by FFA staff to interview and choose a winner in the 29 areas. They met in Kansas City early in the week.

The regional finalists and the national winners are also listed on page 29, plus the sponsors who suppport them through the FFA Foundation.

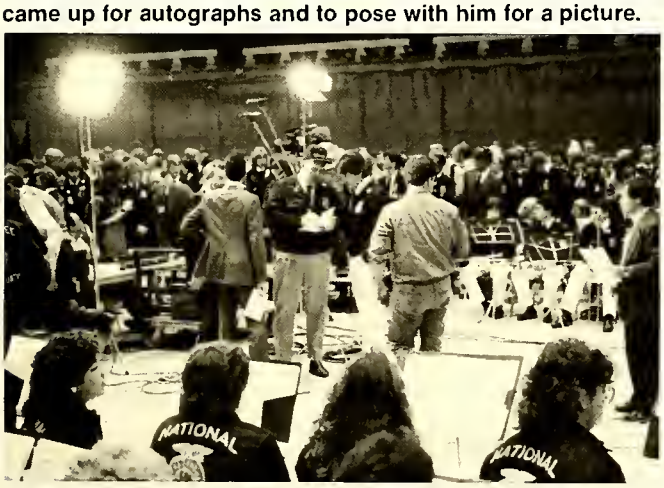
During the convention, the chairman of the FFA Foundation, Mr. Carl Gerhardt of Alfa-Laval, Inc., announced a whopping $2.3 million as the amount of monies contributed by business and industry to provide awards and incentives to FFA members via the National FFA Foundation.

Following his lead, next year's Foundation chairman, Mr. Bill Munsell, chairman of Creswell, Munsell, Fultz & Zirbel, Inc. Advertising, confidently announced his goal of $2.4 million. Support from the agricultural industry for FFA has remained strong and healthy despite the difficult economic sitution in American agriculture. It speaks loudly about their belief in a future for young people.

Speakers during this convention spoke frankly to the full-house audiences about motivation, self discipline, the future of American agriculture, and the importance of hard work and dedication to their values. Speakers included Secretary of Agriculture John Block; Assistant Secretary of Education John Wu; Denis Waitley; Rocky Bleier sponsored by H. J. Heinz Company Foundation; Zig Ziglar

(Continued on Page 28)

Much excitement during the convention was the filming on Friday morning of the NBC TODAY show live from Bartle Hall with the FFA Band, Chorus, the newly named Star Farmer and Star Agribusnessman. Willard Scott seemed to genuinely appreciate being back at an FFA Convention for a second time. He was popular with members and adults both who came up for autographs and to pose with him for a picture.



Signatures for the new District of Columbia Association Charter were made by National Executive Secretary Coleman Harris, following those of National Advisor Larry Case, right, and D.C. State Advisor Mrs. Nina Gaskin, center, plus signatures of National President Steve Meredith, National Secretary Michael Gayaldo and the officers of the District of Columbia State FFA Association.

Outgoing president Jay Householder of Ohio, right, made the ceremonial passing of the gavel to newly elected National FFA Alumni President Gary Maricle, vo-ag instructor at Columbus, Nebraska, during their convention on Wednesday.

A new national forestry contest was conducted during the week. The team members had to tough it through some of the worst weather in years for convention week to demonstrate their judging skills at Camp Lake of the Woods in Swope Park.

State association delegates conducted business sessions and met in committee prior to the convention. Washington delegate Don Hayden proudly displayed his Association name on the back of his chair to uphold the standards of pride in wearing an FFA jacket.

Dr. John Wu, acting assistant secretary for vocational and adult education, U.S. Department of Education, spoke and toured adjacent convention activities like the Career Show, judging contests and proficiency selection operations.

sponsored by the American Bankers Association; Bart Conner sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation, Inc.; and Willard Scott sponsored by the International Minerals and Chemicals Corporation.

Chapter delegations at this annual meeting had plenty of chances to be tuned in to the future. The large National Agricultural Career Show featured an array of career subjects and plenty of "new, latest and in-the-future" topics. Teachers and members alike gathered plastic bags full of career handouts, fund-raising idea kits, plus lots of key rings, hats and buttons, and an apple, orange or candy bar.

Both the Ag Ed Network and the new FFA software service ACCESS were made available for advisors and members to checkout. Many chapters used the Ag Ed Network to send news releases back home to the local newspaper.

Chapter delegates also crowded around the busy Supply Service booth to get convention T-shirts, buy bargain FFA items on sale and stock up on official merchandise. News articles in the Kansas City press reported that the McDonald's a block away from the convention set a record for daily sales during convention week. Feeding 21,000 folks between sessions is a big assignment in itself.

Consequently, the first national prayer breakfast was a big success. Todd Blackledge with the Kansas City Chiefs football team spoke. The breakfast followed the taping session with Willard Scott for the NBC TODAY show. Members of the band and chorus and the national officers were up at 4:30 that morning to get warmed up.

Traditions of the FFA are long-lasting and many of them appeared at this convention. (The FFA was founded in Kansas City in 1928 and has met there ever since.) The National FFA Band's exuberant and spine-tingling grand entry on Thursday night is one. The awesome entrance of the six national officers and the national advisor—spotlighted in the huge dark auditorium—was another.

An endless string of buses lined up to leave after the final gavel, delegates with brief cases, the burst of joy on the face of a national officer candidate who hears his or her name announced by the nominating committee (or the flush of disappointment of those not nominated) are sights in Kansas City seen every year.

Another aspect of the convention is seeing old-friends—past officers and retired ag educators like William Paul Gray, former national executive secretary, who was back in Kansas City for a meeting of retirees from the profession.

Many members will remember agonizing with a national public speaking finalist as he or she answered the judges questions, country bands or gospel quartets of FFA talent members, thousands of flashbulbs going off when the awards are announced, and the combined band and chorus performance of "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Ask your chapter delegation for a show or story about what they experienced. For more details look for the *FFA TIMES* newspaper, sponsored by Jacques Seeds and printed daily during the convention, and mailed direct to your chapter from Kansas City with the FFA Convention Proceedings, also sponsored through the Foundation by Armstrong Rubber.

The convention was a big week for vocational agriculture and for thousands of FFA members. And it shed a bright light on American agriculture that could be seen all across the country. •••

At right is a complete listing of all regional contest and proficiency winners. National winners are in bold type.

Name of Award	Central Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	Sponsor
Prepared Public Speaking	Anthony Osborne Willisburg, KY	Joseph Guthrie Dublin, VA	Joey Butler Smithville, TN	**Lee Harris** Vidor, TX	FMC Foundation
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Glen Enander Frankfort, SD	Carl Merchant Bloomery, WV	Billy Wood Nashville, AR	**Jim Willox** Douglas, WY	American Farm Bureau Federation
Agricultural Proficiency					
Agricultural Electrification	**Bryan Seidel** Altamont, IL	Curt Wells Anna, OH	Kyle Hearn Opelika, AL	Patrick Beck Yuba City, CA	National Food and Energy Council, Inc., Klein Tools, Inc
Agricultural Mechanics	Clyde Zelch Rosebud, MO	Lynwood Everett Kinston, NC	**Randy Wright** Avon Park, FL	Vincent Nunes Merced, CA	J I Case, A Tenneco Company
Agricultural Processing	Roudell Weber Cuba City, WI	**Jeffrey Simmons** Penn Yan, NY	Billy Edwards Jefferson, GA	Karen Scheuble Brooks, CA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Agricultural Sales and/or Service	Steven Fevold Gowrie, IA	William Boothe Fawn Grove, PA	Marty Wootten Ider, AL	**Jennifer Henderson** Rough and Ready, CA	Deutz-Allis Corporation
Beef Production	Rich Falkenstien Oswego, KS	**Ronald Parks** New Concord, OH	Mike Duke Munford, AL	Steve Jensen El Reno, OK	NASCO International, Inc.; Sperry New Holland
Cereal Grain Production	**Bryan Hayenga** Kings, IL	Daniel Hale Galena, OH	John Janes Oak Grove, LA	Michael Klann Flagler, CO	DuPont Agricultural Products
Dairy Production	Gary Van De Hei DePere, WI	Barbara Miller South Woodstock, CT	Denise Smith Arab, AL	**Kevin Gomes** Tulare, CA	New Idea Farm Equipment Corp.; Alfa-Laval, Inc., Agri-Group, American Breeders Service
Diversified Crop Production	**Bruce Boyum** Wanamingo, MN	Todd Kelly Newport, NC	Andrew Nash Greenbrier, TN	Bryan Smith Tipton, OK	Cargill, Inc.
Diversified Livestock Production	**Mike Spitzbarth** Fennimore, WI	Bob Niederman Hamilton, OH	Marty Coley Lafayette, TN	Shane Frost Randlett, UT	A O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc., Wayne Feeds Div./Continental Grain Co
Feed Grain Production	**Scott Travis** Taylorsville, KY	Arthur Taylor New Holland, OH	Pat Malphurs Alachua, FL	Michael Newbanks Yuma, CO	Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Fiber Crop Production			**Cindy Carmack** Gates, TN	Scotty Scott Seagraves, TX	The Shell Companies Foundation, Inc., Valmont Industries, Inc
Floriculture	Daniel Cremeans Ashland, KY	Peter Ramsay Southington, CT	**Todd Wilkinson** White House, TN	Tina Holder Klein, TX	Lerio Corporation, Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch
Forage Production	**Mike Pachta** Belleville, KS	Dereck Atkins Troy, NC	Marshall Johnson Harrogate, TN	Jeff Chachere Dayton, TX	Hesston Corp., United Agri Products, Northrup King Co., Gehl Company
Forest Management	Scott Davis Spencer, IN	William Wright, Jr West Greenwich, RI	Jeff Boutwell Daleville, AL	**William Schlosser** Bremerton, WA	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Fruit and/or Vegetable Production	Nancy Trecker Carrington, ND	**Bill Lamalie** Fremont, OH	Gary Rogers, Jr Webster, FL	Rusty Kaufman Spring, TX	Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation
Home and/or Farmstead Improvement	James Maher Milan, MO	Aaron Wood Grafton, WV	**Kevin Turner** Chunchula, AL	Donald Games Yakima, WA	Upjohn, TUCO, Asgrow and Cobb, Agricultural Div of The Upjohn Co
Horse	**John Larsen** Redwood Falls, MN	Robert Overholt Montvale, VA	Robert Burns, Jr Ralph, AL	Denise Ruhl Kingfisher, OK	The American Quarter Horse Association
Nursery Operations	Glenn Switzer Northfield, MN	**Wayne Beal, Jr.** Bridgeton, NJ	Michael Panter McMinnville, TN	Cindy Tryon Dateland, AZ	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Oil Crop Production	**Kurt Kottke** Buffalo Lake, MN	Frank Howey, Jr. Monroe, NC	Michael Sumrow Halls, TN	Lawrence Jones Dayton, TX	The Shell Companies Foundation, Inc
Outdoor Recreation	Phillip Muench Lancaster, WI	**Matthew Smith** Bowling Green, OH	Ray Hornick Avon Park, FL	Paul Tingley Mt. Vernon, WA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Placement in Agriculture Production	William Wysocki Custer, WI	**Richard Keyser** Jefferson, MO	Kyle Savage Gainesville, GA	Steve Thompson Ardmore, OK	Claas of America, Inc.; CIBA-GEIGY Corporation
Poultry Production	David Dalton Washburn, MO	David Harrison Bradford, OH	**Randall Hewitt** Mayo, FL	Kevin Jervis Midwest City, OK	Kentucky Fried Chicken of Oklahoma, Red Brand Fence/Keystone Steel & Wire Co.; Chore-Time Equipment, Inc., Pilgrims Pride Corp.
Sheep Production	Bartley Marshall Allen, MI	Nancy MacCauley Atglen, PA	Kelly Ware Longville, LA	**Kimberly Knutson** Clyde Park, MT	Carnation Company-Milling Div.; American Sheep Producers Council, Inc./Sheep Industry Development Program, Inc.
Soil and Water Management	Marcus Moore Winchester, IL	**Matthew Sowers** Burkittsville, MD	James Maxey Natchitoches, LA	David Vap Newkirk, OK	Ford Motor Company Fund
Specialty Animal Production	Shayne Ulmer New Haven, IN	Adrienne Shaffer Knoxville, MD	Bart Hains Rayne, LA	**Chris Snyder** Tacoma, WA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Specialty Crop Production	Kyle Petersen Murdock, MN	**Kelly Freeman** Bennett, NC	Brian Ratliff Limestone, TN	Matthew Guidotti Soledad, CA	R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc
Swine Production	**Kevin Gardner** Cave City, KY	Rodney Herr Gettysburg, PA	Clint Oliver Reidsville, GA	Lyle Blakley Oologah, OK	Pfizer, Inc
Turf and Landscape Management	Mark Hilligoss Sharpsville, IN	**Charles Hughes, III** LaGrange, NC	Kevin Kovac Oak Grove, LA	Charles Ahsmuhs College Place, WA	O.M. Scott & Sons
Wildlife Management	**Dennis Thireault** Blackduck, MN	Nathan Moody Zanesville, OH	Stanley Clarke Delta, AL	Christopher Clements Picacho, NM	Philip Morris Incorporated
National BOAC Citation	Cabool FFA Cabool, MO	**Marion County FFA** Farmington, WV	Avon Park FFA Avon Park, FL	Duck Valley FFA Duck Valley, NV	R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.

Contest	Winning Team	High Individual	Sponsor
Agricultural Mechanics	**Missouri**—Neal Harrell, Jim Young, Doug Schieffer; Troy	**Neal Harrell**	Firestone Trust Fund
Dairy	**Minnesota**—Tina Larson, William Dinse, Liz Zeman; Owatonna	**Tina Larson**	Associated Milk Producers, Inc
Dairy Foods	**California**—Deena Maxwell, Sandy Harvey, Anissa Wilhelm; Atascadero	**Anissa Wilhelm**	Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.; Patz Sales, Inc.
Farm Business Management	**Minnesota**—Glenn Anderson, Dan Snyder, Bruce Hansen; Madelia	**Gary Lochelt** Lyndon, WA	Deere & Co
Floriculture	**North Carolina**—Maurice Teague, Joel Oldham, Sean Webster, Bear Creek	**Sean Webster**	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Forestry	**Mississippi**—Michael Druitt, Dwaine Cowent, Randy Pilgrim, Richton	**Michael Druitt**	Homelite Division of Textron, Inc.; Temple-Eastex, Inc.; Hammermill Paper Co.
Livestock	**California**—Ron Flaharty, Darci Randall, Carissa Wreden; Atascadero	**Carissa Wreden**	Purina Mills, Inc
Meats	**California**—Lani Leavitt, Steve Simons, Judy Ellison; Clovis	**Judy Ellison**	Geo. A. Hormel & Co.; Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation
Nursery/Landscape	**North Carolina**—Christy Youngblood, Jody Harris, Gary Hart; Bear Creek	**Christy Youngblood**	American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.; Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Inc.; Kubota Tractor Company
Poultry	**Arkansas**—Tonya Skaggs, Doug Archer, Jesse Horton; Springdale	**Tonya Skaggs**	True Value Hardware Stores-Professional Lawn Care Program; Hubbard Farms; Victor F. Weaver, Inc

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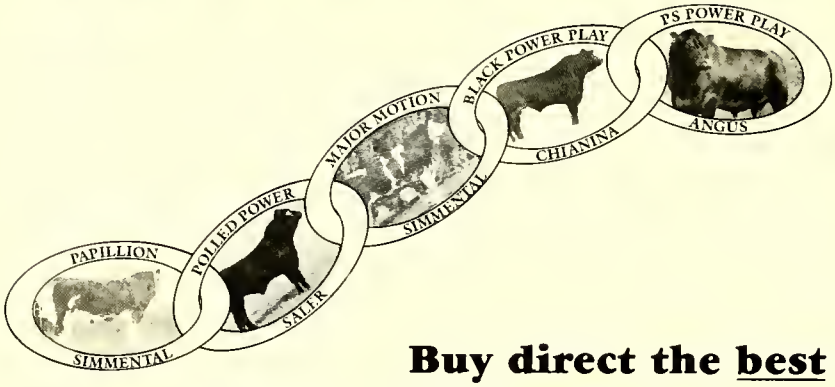

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Chris believes his activities in FFA provide him with self-respect and confidence.

A Hoosier

By Rod Vahl

THE sun quickly warmed the crowds at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds in Davenport, Iowa, this past summer and one of the most popular stopping spots was the Belgian horse show arena. A visitor suddenly stopped to admire one of the beautiful Belgian draft horses, some 2,000 pounds strong. Holding rein to that humongous horse was a 98-pound kid in jeans and a blue-striped shirt.

"Seems to me that stallion could cause a little guy like you a lot of trouble!" said a visitor to the young man.

With a self-confident grin, the youth instinctively responded, "Yeah, but I carry a big stick!"

Carrying that big stick was Chris House, a 16-year-old member of the Hamilton Heights FFA Chapter in Arcadia, Indiana. He was participating in one of his favorite activities—accompanying his grandfather and showing Belgian horses at county and state fairs during the summer months.

His interest in horses is apparent as he explains, "I've been around and worked with the Belgians since I was about five-years old. Back home on the farm, I have Arabian horses as a project for FFA and sell them."

Long hours of work with the Belgian horses have paid dividends for Chris, selected as Indiana State Fair junior showmanship champion in 1983, and runner-up in 1984. Though he dropped to third place in showmanship this year,

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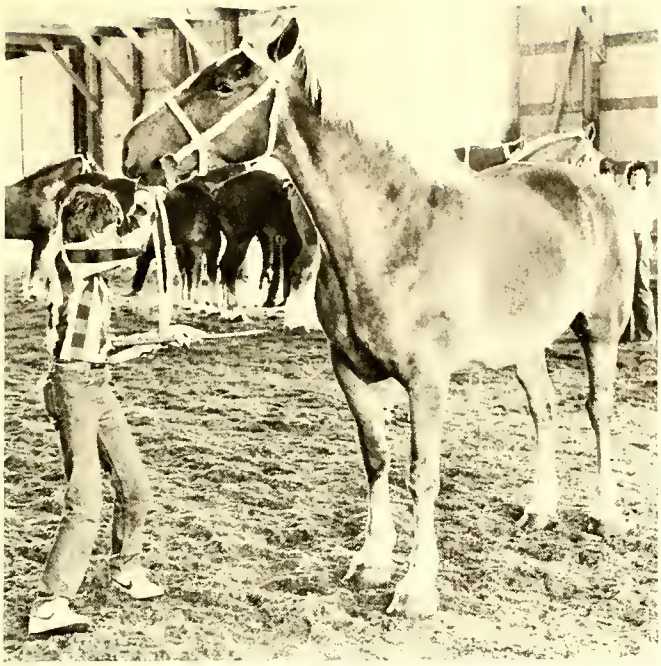

Chris works diligently in the show ring with a Belgian draft horse.

On a Roll

Chris House overcomes size and weight to control 2,000-pound Belgian draft horses.

he earned the top award for showing the best Belgian yearling mare in the junior class and again the top award in the open division for the best yearling mare bred in Indiana.

And he knows what to do in that show ring: "The judges will look to see how well I control the horse, having him do what I want him to do, keeping his head up and walking or running in a straight line. And my appearance counts."

Active in his school's FFA chapter, Chris is vice-president this year, having served as chapter reporter his sophomore year. Looking ahead, he says, "I hope to be president my senior year."

Chris is one youth who genuinely views his FFA chapter and agricultural courses as vital to his life. "I really enjoy my FFA projects," he says. "I think the most important thing it does is give me the self-respect that anyone needs."

Pointing to his school with pride, Chris explains that the agricultural program includes courses in horticulture, greenhouse management, landscape and turf management, forestry and wildlife. Those all fit within Chris' long-range plans, as he explains, "Right now I hope to have some kind of a botanical or landscape management career. I would like to attend a botanical college in Kauai, Hiwaii, where an uncle of mine lives."

Those kinds of interests are evident in his FFA project. Last spring he planted 2,000 strawberry plants. "I'll care for them during the year," he says, "and then hope to sell strawberries to grocery markets next year. It will be my job to keep records of everything."

As he talks about his various interest and projects, his grandfather, Ralph House, smiles with pride—a pride that includes 60 years with the Belgian horses in the family. "It doesn't hurt a kid to conquer an animal," says Ralph. "It gives him confidence and that's what it's done for Chris."

Self-respect and confidence. Those are assets any person needs to succeed. And if 98-pound Chris House can conquer a 2,000-pound Belgin draft horse—well, he's simply another FFA enthusiast on a roll! ●●●

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The Changing Field of Veterinary Medicine

By Dennis Lepley

VETERINARIANS have changed the way they work. The change parallels the evolution of large scale animal agriculture. As farm units became larger and more specialized, the practice of animal health professionals changed and specialized. The once commonplace solo practitioner is no longer typical of the profession. Today, right alongside confinement barns, custom feedlots and 24-hour milking, stands the group practice.

Franklin Veterinary Associates in south-central Pennsylvania is typical of the group trend. Composed of two partners and a salaried staff veterinarian, each has primary responsibility for a specific area. One, for example, specializes in swine and nutrition. The second works with bovine fertility, particularly in dairy herds. The third functions as the group's small animal specialist.

Group practices usually take one of two forms. The most common, for large animal farm practices, is a partnership of two or more veterinarians. The partnership may, if it choses, hire one or more additional veterinarians and pay them a fixed salary. All are part of the group with the partnership providing the basic business structure.

The second form is the professional corporation. In this instance, all veterinarians in the group are employees of the corporation and draw salaries. The stock is owned by some or all the members of the group.

Learning the Business

Most schools of veterinary medicine try to provide a foundation for the new complicated business structures. Courses in setting up a practice, accounting, taxes and insurance planning are common in modern curriculums.

A few veterinarian school graduates place such profound importance on business knowledge that they go on to earn an MBA degree before entering a practice. Others are following the example of specialization by hiring accountants or comptrollers to look after the financial aspects of the business.

Some groups are experimenting with providing new services. Farm management consulting is one of the more common. Although enjoying some success in isolated instances, experts do not predict a bright future for this concept. Feed companies, farmers' associations and extension programs offer these services free or at minimal cost to farm clients. In most cases, it is unprofitable to duplicate these services.

Above, the traditional image of the veterinarian as a faithful general practitioner is giving way to a modern specialist who employs equally modern business structures. Left, competition for getting into vet school is as keen as ever, but experts predict an easing trend.

Trends of Tomorrow

A majority of the veterinarians interviewed agreed that preventive medicine is the future of the profession. Farmers regularly do most of the routine vaccinations, injections and minor surgeries necessary. Veterinarians are providing advice on the larger questions of herd health. They provide the necessary expertise in recommending vaccination programs, proper feed additives and sanitation procedures.

To accomplish these broader goals, the trend is toward a growth in scheduled periodic farm visits. Typically, this might involve monthly pregnancy checks in a dairy herd or a bimonthly inspection of a complete farrow-to-finish swine facility. The veterinarian charges for his time on one of these visits. The product being sold is service and technical expertise.

There are growing numbers of veterinarians who build a practice around a very narrow specialty. Ophthalmology, dermatology, neurology and cardiology lead the list of specialists. The sport of horse racing has always provided a practice for those skilled in equine medicine.

The shift to group practice has a very human aspect. Every veterinarian interviewed agreed that the most important personal benefit is the ability to take time

(Continued on Page 42)

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The first step to a successful SOE program involves defining your goals and assessing your resources. With a clear plan of action, everything else falls into place; without it, you're lost.

Managing Your SOE Program

These tips will help you get ahead by organizing your goals and records in a production ag or agribusiness SOE program

By Michael Wilson

WHEN John Scarlett, of New Market, Tennessee, first started keeping records as a Greenhand FFA member six years ago, he dreaded every tedious hour. But John quickly learned one of the first and most basic principles of successful SOE management: keep records up to date on a weekly or monthly basis, and you'll never need to worry about falling behind.

"Getting into that habit was one of the best things I ever did," says John, who last year earned the 1984 national FFA dairy proficiency award. "I didn't want to end up like so many kids who go through four years of keeping poor records, then kick themselves because they don't have any idea of the information needed for award applications."

The 20-year-old Jefferson County FFA member now milks 150 cows in partnership with his father and brother, while studying agricultural economics at the University of Tennessee. The record keeping skills that were so monotonous at first have helped John become one of the best young dairy farmers in the area.

If you're just starting in vocational agriculture, you've probably already learned that keeping good records is the heart of a good Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE) program. But several factors go into award-winning programs like John Scarlett's. The following tips may give you some idea of how to manage an SOE program, and get what you want out of the experience.

Let's start with goals. Managing or starting an SOE program can be confusing and intimidating without them. Your first step is to do a little soul searching. Ask yourself: What kind of SOE program am I interested in? Production agriculture or agribusiness? What kind of resources are available? Do I have a home farm with adequate facilities? Are my parents supportive? Can I rent or borrow resources needed to operate an SOE program?

Some schools have SOE tours, which allow Greenhands the opportunity to see many different FFA members' projects. Your chapter may also have an SOE scrapbook with photos and descriptions of past projects. Your FFA advisor can be a great help in narrowing your interests.

Remember: you don't have to be from a farm to have an SOE program, and you don't have to start with a huge inventory of crops or animals. The most successful projects start small, and expand in scope or diversity each year.

Decide what you hope to accomplish. Ask yourself: will this experience help me narrow my career interests? What kind of financial goals will my SOE program help me attain? What must I do to reach those goals? What kind of management, farm or agribusiness skills will I gain? What kind of awards will my experience and skills allow me to compete for? How far can I go?

Computers Can

IF ever there was a good use for a microcomputer, it's keeping track of your Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE) program. Take a look at what this simple tool can do:

—Keep track of your financial records, such as beginning and ending inventories.

—Reduce the drudgery of working efficiency factors, by using computerized mathematical programs.

—Make cash flow projections, add figures quickly, or work out a budget using electronic spreadsheets.

—Record notes and observations easily; no more pencil skidmarks from erasers. Word processing lets you edit and change paragraphs and sentences at the touch of a button. You can move information from one spot to another, or transfer it into record books and award applications.

Best of all, you don't need to be a computer whiz or a programmer to work a microcomputer.

Almost any commercial word processing or financial program will apply to your SOE project. And some computer programs are available for specific agricultural applications, like crop production, or cattle and hog breakeven analysis. These programs are primarily decision-making aids, not record keepers.

If you'd like to use a computer for your SOE management, first sit down

Management

Unless you've had previous experience in 4-H, the actual management of your project will seem strange at first. You must be the decision-maker: when to plant corn, when to harvest, when to sell lambs, buy breed stock, etc. But your decisions can be made much easier with the help of a parent, friendly neighborhood farmer, county extension adviser and, of course, your FFA advisor.

These management tasks can be of great benefit. For one thing, you'll learn job responsibility: if it's a crop, you must plant it; if it's a pig, you must feed it. An SOE program can also be a great source of income. Don't count on a lot at first, but some FFA members can develop a good savings account for college. Many SOE programs have been the basis for future businesses, like greenhouses or a custom hay baling service.

Your biggest responsibility will be keeping records up to date, says Bob Seefeldt, program specialist at the National FFA Center. That includes keeping enterprise expense and income records, taking inventories and figuring depreciation, for example. This will help you develop your project from year to year. And you'll have figures at your fingertips when you're ready to fill out award applications.

Staying on top of efficiency factors is vital to strike a profitable balance between costs of production and the bottom line.

Start by developing a system for recording information on your project, says Mr. Seefeldt. As a former vo-ag teacher, Mr. Seefeldt encouraged students to record information on a large calendar conveniently placed near SOE activity.

"Students wrote down everything that happened each day on that calendar," he says. "Then at the end of the month, they transferred the information into their record books. That way the books were constantly updated."

Mr. Seefeldt, like many vo-ag teachers, spent class time helping students with record books. That practice insures that all students have updated books. It can also give you a chance to compare different yields or management practices with other students. For older students, the next step is to record the information directly into proficiency award or degree applications.

John Scarlett says keeping his records together in one place was important. As with the calendar idea, it's best to keep them close to your project, in a barn office, for example.

"If you can't keep records near your project, try keeping them in a desk in your room. But make sure they're somewhere in the same place all the time," says John. "If you've got records in four or five places, you're bound to lose some."

Of course, all the advice in the world won't make record keeping any more glamorous. Everyone can get discouraged, especially when the numbers refuse to add up.

"Nobody likes to do bookwork, but it's just one of those things you've got to do if you want to succeed," sums up John. "I didn't like record keeping at first either. But after I won the award I was sure glad I did it anyway."

Mr. Seefeldt agrees. "You can't do it all overnight," he says. "Winning awards and developing your SOE is a three-to-five year process. Decide what you need to learn and then map out the steps to take. It may be nothing more than subscribing to a farm magazine, or attending a livestock show to learn more about breed characteristics.

"Eventually, the little pieces will add up." •••

Make SOE Easy

with your FFA advisor to define your goals and needs. Find out what software is available at your vo-ag department, Farm Bureau, county extension office, or local computer dealer. Many state cooperative extension services have developed farm computer programs and are available for reasonably low prices.

Computerized Awards

By the time you read this article, the national FFA organization will begin supplying FFA members with American Farmer degree and proficiency award applications on computer floppy disks.

"The program is super," says Bob Seefeldt, FFA program specialist. "It does all the calculations and moves information around easily."

In addition, the new computerized applications won't allow mistakes which violate certain principles of farm management. "For example, some people don't understand that ending inventory one year is the same as begining inventory the next year," explains Mr. Seefeldt. "The computerized application won't let that mistake occur."

Will there come a time when those without computers will be at a disadvantage? "We're trying not to let that happen," he says. "The advantage to computerized forms is they're more accurate, neater and more complete. You can enter information every day of the week, whereas the paper notebook is filled out after the fact.

"In some cases, the paper notebook will be a thing of the past." •••

If your chapter or ag program has a computer, chances are you already have all the software you'll need to start computerizing your SOE project.

The Great FFA Talent Search

Each year talented FFA members strum and hum and fiddle their way into the hearts of National FFA Convention audiences.

Pickers and singers at the 1984 FFA Convention.

SINGERS, dancers, rock groups, baton twirlers, banjo players... what do *they* have to do with FFA?

If you've been to the National FFA Convention, you already know what a big part talented FFA members have in making the convention a success. Each year an elite group of enthusiastic blue-jacketed FFA members from all parts of the country strum and hum and fiddle and sing their way into the hearts of FFA and Kansas City audiences. Each were invited to be part of the national FFA talent program, headed up by Directors Don and Martha Erickson.

"Talent, like gold, is where you find it," says Mr. Erickson. "These young people are simply active members with unique abilities." The talent program began more than 40 years ago, and has grown to become an exciting part of the national convention. Between 100 and 150 appearances by FFA talent were made in Kansas City last year. In addition to performances on the convention's main stage, groups and acts do their routines at the Career Show, at meal functions and at greater Kansas City service clubs. Participants in the talent program normally make several appearances.

Sometimes the acts seem so polished, it's hard to believe the performers are teenage FFA members just like those in the audience. Most come from small town backgrounds, became interested in music as small children, then perfected their "act" before local FFA groups. Students who make it to the big stage have worked months for this moment. "The opportunity to perform in front of such a large audience (approximately 20,000 people) was an honor," says Cecilia House, a singer from an Excel, Alabama, FFA quartet which performed last year at the convention. "It was a goal which took a year of long hours, practice and self-discipline." One Alabama string band practiced three times a week, two to three hours at a time, for two months before the convention.

One of the benefits all talent performers agree on is the chance to meet people from around the country. Often, performers make life-long friendships those few short days at the convention. "This was a new experience for me because I have never been so close to so many people that I never knew before," says Mike Turrentine, who played mandolin in the Danville, Alabama, string band. "I count it a privilege to have met so many FFA'ers from other states."

New musical ventures are sometimes created from these friendships. Solo acts from different states often become duets. While string bands, quartets and other group acts are most common, Mr. Erickson says more and more clog dancers, tap dancers, modern dancers and baton twirlers are gracing the stage. "Magicians' card tricks and sleight-of-hand are difficult to see from far away seats in the huge auditorium, and we often let them perform at service clubs on smaller stages," he says.

Performers get a chance to grow and be recognized. Tami Heatwole, from the Turner-Ashby, Virginia, Chapter, says, "Before I went to the convention I sang for myself, but I did not feel I was getting anywhere. Being in the national talent program made me feel more confident about myself, and recently I have been asked to perform for local clubs and banquets." Bobby McLamb, who got his start in the national FFA talent show, is now a regular on the Loretta Lynn show.

One problem with the program is providing information to students. "We are swamped with letters and phone calls from students and advisors trying to get some information about the program," Mr. Erickson says.

No Contest

Some confusion exists about the program's requirements. "Many states do conduct talent contests to select acts to go to Kansas City," Mr. Erickson says, "but elimination contests are not required for entry into the talent program. The only requirements are active FFA membership, some special ability and a willingness to live up to very high standards set for all the performers." A common thread, he says, is "that every participant reflects the wholesome image the FFA strives so hard to maintain."

As a result, all suitable acts are used. "Auditions are held not to determine if an act will be used, but where and when," says Mr. Erickson. If you are interested in the 1986 talent show, you should write or call for an application. Contact Don and Martha Erickson at Route One, Box 16, Makoti, North Dakota, 58756, or call 701-726-5566. Mr. Erickson says all acts must be on hand no later than 12 noon on Tuesday of convention week. "Applications will not be accepted if audition times or signatures are not in place, or qualified chaperones are not identified." ●●●

Bill Simpson with Crusty John, the Thoroughbred stallion, valued at $25,000.

The Land Lab

(Continued from Page 24)

numerous occasions, as explained in the school's handbook.

- For the past three years 20 percent of all awards presented at the State Forestry Skills Day have been taken by Land Lab students, including six state championships.
- For the past six years, one of our students has exhibited the top market steer at the Oregon State Fair.
- Land Lab students as a team have won six of the past seven annual District Forestry Skills Contests.
- At the Clackamas County Fair, Land Lab FFA members have exhibited the top ten animals during the last three consecutive years.
- At the Portland International Livestock Exposition, Land Lab FFA members have exhibited the champion, reserve champion and numerous winning animals.

These achievements, of course, do not come about by chance. Competency-based curriculum skills taught include vaccination, techniques of animal castration and artificial insemination.

A complete course in meat cutting is taught. Besides learning all the meat cuts and the skills to perform them, class members study safety and the facts necessary to be a successful family meat consumer.

Presently, 95 percent of all graduating seniors master course requirements by the "Return Demonstration Method," according to Wynn Sutfin, a full-time teacher at the Land Lab.

Nor is money an obstacle for the less-than-affluent student. Maintenance work is available so that students may work off costs for keeping their animals on the farm. Many animals, however, belong to the FFA chapter.

Farm life may not be for everyone, but at the Land Lab students learn the differences between their fantasies and reality. •••

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Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

The *Omro,* WI, Chapter is having an apple pie contest. Any FFA member, parent or Alumni may enter. The contest is part of a crops show for the community run by the chapter. Wonder if they'll share the winning recipe. Or better still, send a sample to the Scoop editor!

N-N-N

Fun to see that "slave" sales are still popular fund raisers—and effective ones too. *Latta,* OK, raised $2,000 by "selling" their 32 members and **Advisor Little**.

N-N-N

Also donkey ball games are still making the rounds like the one in *Gresham,* OR. The chapter will use the funds from their game to send chapter president **Bill Hutchens** to the national convention.

N-N-N

And as usual this time of year, there are reports of homecoming float entries—*Ava,* MO, won third with their entry of a manure spreader and the theme "Bears Scatter Willow Springs."

N-N-N

At the annual joint FFA-FHA fall cookout in *Weston,* LA, freshmen boys had to dress as girls and freshmen girls had to dress like boys.

N-N-N

Such a welcome—it was Greenhands against the rest of the chapter for a ball game in *Wright City,* MO.

N-N-N

The *Ruby Mountain,* Elko, NV, Chapter officers talked to the Ag I classes welcoming them into the FFA and vo-ag. The officers also gave a fun presentation on FFA nerds.

N-N-N

The above news items was submitted via the Ag Ed Network to Stargram address FF100A. All reporters, other officers and advisors are welcome to also send in news via the Network.

N-N-N

All of the 65 members who went on the *Durant,* OK, three-day camping trip came home sunburned and happy.

N-N-N

Chapter reporters should be reminded to include the city and state with their news items so we can tell other readers what chapter it came from.

N-N-N

Corey Davis, *Laurel Park* FFA in Martinsville, VA, demonstrated how to make a kissing ball out of boxwood during a horticulture demonstration at the state fair.

The *Denmark,* WI, senior class of 1984 had 80 members. This group has 21 State Farmers, 3 sectional Star Farmers, 3 area Star Farmers, and 2 state Star Farmers. They also had 9 state proficiency winners, 2 central region winners and 1 national proficiency winner. The American Farmers from this one class are yet to be selected.

N-N-N

At their fall festival booth, the *Banks County,* GA, Chapter displayed chapter activities and sold homemade candied apples, big cookies and brownies.

N-N-N

Each State Farmer degree winner for the *Bon Homme,* SD, Chapter gets their membership fee paid.

N-N-N

Logan, NM, had the first place float in the 4th of July parade. It showed how agriculture has the spirit of America. The chapter sweetheart threw bubble gum to the spectators.

N-N-N

Early enrolled new members of the *Manfield,* TX, freshman class can buy FFA caps.

N-N-N

Ice cream was on the menu for the *Lewisville,* TX, get together for new members to meet the rest of the chapter and the advisors. And on the menu for the *Newkirk,* OK, parent/member social and installation of Greenhands.

N-N-N

Showman in the *Logan,* NM, Chapter got a practice shot at grooming and showmanship in a community mini-fair.

N-N-N

Beth Johnson sent news about the recent father-member fish fry to kick off the new year for the *Simpson,* LA, Chapter.

N-N-N

Lebanon, CT, has a good sounding fund raiser—old fashioned milk shake booth at their local fair.

N-N-N

Glencoe, OK, held a children's fingerprinting in order to provide identification in case of emergency. They conducted the exercise in conjunction with the county sheriff's department.

N-N-N

Colusa, CA, Chapter officers acted out a mock farm accident during the farm safety field day sponsored by the Farm Bureau and county rescue units.

Editors of the *Antelope,* AZ, Chapter invited their new principal to write the front page editorial for their first newsletter of the year. Mr. Ellett came down hard on suggesting every student should be in a club or school activity or class event. He commented that the FFA was a great example of a successful school organization.

N-N-N

Four chapters in Preble County, OH, worked at the county pork festival—*Twin Valley South, Tri-County North, National Trails* and *Preble Shawnee.*

N-N-N

Food sold in the *Willard,* OH, booth at the local Octoberfest was all bought from FFA members and area farmers.

N-N-N

A program feature at the first meeting of the year for the *Eagle Point,* OR, Chapter was the officers discussing important summer chapter events like leadership camp, judging trips, a fishing trip and state fair.

N-N-N

Carolyn Ferreria, reporter for the *Maxwell,* CA, Chapter has created her own computerized letterhead to use in submitting news.

N-N-N

The *Appleton,* MO, Chapter and the local football team operated a mud pit at the city fair this summer. They charged admission to see mud wrestling. It was a big success.

N-N-N

Stroud, OK, held a community fair in August sponsored by the FFA Booster Club and the FFA Alumni Association. There were exhibits in agronomy, horticulture, fresh fruits, canning, decorated cakes and houshold arts. The grand champion steer was shown by **Dawn Mazouch**.

N-N-N

The *Lake Mills,* IA, members caught pigeons as a fund-raising project.

N-N-N

What do you pay for local dues in your chapter? *Cumberland Valley,* Mechanicsburg, PA, has a dues schedule of $7.50 for freshmen and sophomores; $7 for juniors and seniors; and $6.50 for out-of-school members.

N-N-N

Let's hear from some new chapters about fun events, accomplishments, crazy happenings and other important news.

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The Stars Come Out for BOAC

National winners, corporate executives, congressmen, senators and the President share the spotlight

By Andy Markwart

If you were making a movie, the script couldn't have been any better. There was action, suspense and lots of stars. Some of the stars were actors, some were former actors and some didn't try to act at all; they were the real stars.

The third National FFA Conference on Community Development was held September 14-18 at the Capitol Hill Hyatt-Regency in Washington, D.C. The real stars were 50 of the nation's top FFA members, state winners in the Building Our American Communities (BOAC) program. All 50 were vying for the National Achievement in Volunteerism Award, the highest individual honor attainable in the BOAC program.

At the opening banquet Saturday night, everyone knew ten finalists were to be announced after dinner. A pattern of nervously untouched desserts dotted the tables as former National FFA President Ron Wineinger announced the finalists. Dan Quincey, Midland City, Alabama. Keith Anthony Marshall, Lake City, Arkansas. Walt Carter, Avon Park, Florida. Stuart Keller, Jr., Franklin Grove, Illinois. Mark Eischeid, Algona, Iowa. Tammy Bell, Chateaugay, New York. Matthew Smith, Bowling Green, Ohio. With every name announced, the wave of expectation grew stronger and the list continued: Brian Hughes, Elma, Washington; Jamie Moore, Farmington, West Virginia; and finally, Jeff Saharsky, Denmark, Wisconsin.

These ten finalists participated in interviews on Monday morning to explain their chapter's successful BOAC program and outline their specific responsibilities.

In the end, Jeff Saharsky, of the Denmark FFA Chapter, emerged as the National Achievement in Volunteerism Award winner. Saharsky, an enthusiastic, unselfish leader, was hard-pressed to find the reason why he had won. "When you are with the 50 best in the country, I don't see how the judging committee could pick a top individual," Saharsky said, "They all had great programs."

Stuart Keller, Jr., of the Franklin Center FFA Chapter placed second and there was an unprecedented tie for third place between Matthew Smith of the Bowling Green FFA Chapter and Jamie Moore of the Marion County FFA Chapter.

The purpose of the five-day conference, made possible by R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc., was twofold. Obviously, it honored those FFA members who

National Achievement in Volunteerism award winners Matthew Smith, Bowling Green, Ohio, (tied for third place); Jeff Saharsky, Green Bay, Wisconsin, (first place); Jamie Moore, Wallace, West Virginia, (tied for third place); and Stuart Keller, Jr., Franklin Grove, Illinois, (second place) display their awards on the Capitol steps.

had done superior work with their BOAC programs. But the conference, entitled "Leadership for Changing Communities" was also an opportunity for the participants to learn more about their country, their communities, themselves and each other.

Throughout the week, workshops were held to exchange and introduce new ideas which would benefit all of the chapters when the winners returned home. The participants were challenged by National FFA President Steve Meredith to take what they had learned at the conference and share it with their chapters to build stronger, more productive communities.

Tuesday was a very big day. It started off with each FFA member participating in an internship with the congressman from their home state. The internships varied from crash courses on complex legislative workings to typing letters to constituents back home. One participant said he "learned more about the government in one hour talking with a congressional aide than I did all through civics class."

Spending a morning on Capitol Hill was exciting as well as educational, but lunch provided the high point of the day.

At the Achievement in Volunteerism Awards Luncheon in the Caucus Room of the Cannon House Office Building, the line-up of speakers read like a Who's Who in the agriculture industry. Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and Kika de la Garza, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee spoke to a room with FFA members and their advisors packed shoulder to shoulder with some of the most influential leaders today in business, politics and education.

"You are showing how communities can work together to solve their problems and become better places to live and work," said Gwain H. Gillespie, executive vice president of R. J. Reynolds Industries, as he addressed the awards luncheon. "It's been called volunteerism, self-help, private initiative or just plain and simple self reliance. By any name, it's one of the most cherished qualities of our national character."

On the final day of the conference, another man echoed the remarks of Gwain Gillespie; that man was the President of the United States.

President Ronald Reagan, in his first Rose Garden appearance since being hospitalized, congratulated the BOAC winners at the White House. "I commend all of you individually for your wonderful work in helping our rural communities. It is gratifying to me to see young people like yourselves volunteering your time to keep these communities strong," Reagan said.

FFA Program Specialist Ted E. Amick, who oversees the BOAC program, feels the role of the program is changing. "BOAC is no longer a clean-up, fix-up program," said Amick, but one that "brings FFA members and their communities together to focus on the strengths of agricultural resources and the enhancement of community facilities to keep local communities strong and growing."

This expanded role, reflected in the conference theme, "Leadership for Changing Communities," was the challenge the 50 state winners took back with them to places like Midland City, Alabama; Bartlett, Tennessee and Deerfield, New Hampshire. And you got the feeling that something good was going to happen in these communities soon. These young leaders were really going to make a difference. •••

President Reagan addresses the BOAC conference in the Rose Garden of the White House.

National Winner Jeff Saharsky: Nice Guys Finish First

Jeff Saharsky, the 1985 National Achievement in Volunteerism Award winner, is one of the most likeable fellows you would ever want to meet. He is polite, friendly, intelligent and above all, has that genuine personality found in good leaders. With Jeff, there is no put-on; he is not out to impress anyone. He lets his results do the talking.

For example, after meeting his congressman, senator and the President of the United States during the Conference on Community Development, Jeff was asked what the high point of the entire conference was. He responded, "Being able to talk with the rest of the state winners. Everybody got ideas from everybody else. It was great!" This blond 17-year-old has served as chapter BOAC chairman for the past two years. He was involved in every aspect of the BOAC projects and met with every major community group to gain their support and involvement.

The attention Jeff has received from the achievement award has benefited his Denmark, Wisconsin, FFA Chapter a great deal. "There is more going on and there is more motivation in our chapter. Everyone is getting involved," said Saharsky. "People are coming to us with projects so we don't have to go out looking for them anymore."

Jeff credits the success of Denmark's BOAC program to a supportive school system and a community always willing to help. Although this may be true, it took the hard work and hands-on leadership of Jeff Saharsky to bring those resources together and make the program successful. But you see, Jeff wouldn't tell you that. He's not that kind of guy. •••

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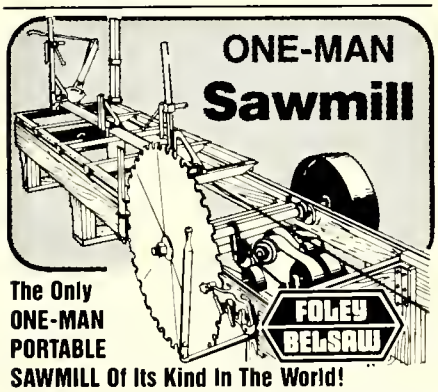

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Veterinarians

(Continued from Page 32)

off. Dr. Jerome Harness, a former FFA chapter president and a member of a group practice says, "The old vet who practiced alone, if the truth were known, didn't have a very good family life. He was on the road from morning until late at night. This was day after day after day." Dr. Harness stresses the importance of family life, vacations and the opportunity for further education as the big reasons that group practices are here to stay.

Making the Right Choice

With all these exciting changes occurring in the field, should an FFA member consider the profession as a career? Certainly, if it's what he or she really wants. There are some facts that must be considered, however, before a final decision is made.

While the vocational agriculture program and FFA membership are excellent backgrounds for such a career, remember that colleges expect more math, physics, chemistry and biology than many high school programs offer. If you want to increase the chances of being accepted into a pre-veterinary program, load your schedule with as much physical science as you can manage.

Consider also, the future of veterinary medicine to be less bright than in the past. A recent study in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association* predicts a decreasing demand for new veterinarians. At the present rate of growth, the profession will be in oversupply by the year 2000. That is only 15 years from now.

The economic effects are already being felt. Dr. Ames Ziegra, a young veterinarian working for a group practice complains, "It's going to be harder to be a vet. You have to have excellent grades to get into vet school and then you have to work hard to stay there. You make sacrifices and you miss out on a lot because you must spend so much time on the books.

Improving Your Chances

If you believe that veterinary medicine is for you, the odds will be better if you get a little experience first. Sherri Coble is a veterinarian's assistant in training. She does everything from "cleaning to assisting with surgeries." The theory is that she learns by doing. Her job is excellent training for later schooling.

The same may be said for Bob Henry. Bob is a field technician assisting mostly in on-farm work. Originally wanting to be a vet, Bob's grades were not quite good enough. The admissions people told him that the type of experience he's getting now will be very helpful should he reapply.

If eight years of study are not for you, you might want to become a small animal technician. This will take only two years of study at an accredited school. You will receive a license from the state to practice. Most veterinarians employ people in one or more of these positions.

A Little Good News

There is a more encouraging side to the story. Dr. John Martin of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine reports that fierce competition for admission to the vet school is on the wane. With the demand for trained professionals declining, some schools are already witnessing a decline in applications.

For further information, contact your school guidance office. Learn which schools offer exactly what you want and contact them early. Academic requirements and costs vary widely. See where you can get the best deal for your particular goals. This is an area where comparisons will not only increase your chances of getting what you want, but will probably save you money.

Remember: as in any field, there will always be room for dedicated people willing to work hard and innovate. •••

One of the best ways to check out the veterinary field is to get a job as a helper or technician with a practicing vet. Many small animal clinics hire part-time help.

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This new FFA royal blue athletic shirt has white banded V-Neck, blue and white striped braid-trimmed sleeves. Made of 50% cotton, 50% polyester. Sizes: S, M, L, XL

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Back by popular demand, this FFA Jean Jacket comes in both boys and girls sizes. Made of indigo heavyweight blue denim, jacket has FFA emblem patch over left pocket and your first name or nickname *embroidered in gold* over right pocket *at no extra cost*. Please state size and name to be embroidered when ordering. Sizes: Boys 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44; Girls (MS) 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15

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Ewe Are a Celebrity

Photo: Iowa Department of Agriculture

Among the celebrities awaiting their placings in the first-ever Celebrity "Ewe" Lead With Wool contest are: (from left) Kevin Eblen, Iowa Future Farmers of America president and Iowa State Fair queen Brenda Johnson. Some 17 famous folks competed in the contest August 19 during the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines. Kevin leads a registered Hampshire ewe from the flock of Tim Louden. They're both members of the Creston Chapter. ■

Animal Agriculture for Her

Sueanne Wood of Selah, Washington, was the first girl to earn the "Outstanding Dekalb Senior Award" in the Naches Valley High Chapter.

Leadership activities and success with her many FFA projects won her the honor, according to vo-ag instructor Mr. Kailen Dunn.

Sueanne also earned two other scholarships for her work in the vo-ag department—the Robert Allen and the Naches Garden Club scholarships.

Sueanne has learned how to select livestock and keep them healthy.

For two years, she has taken grand reserve champion or grand champion honors at the state fair for her FFA projects of pigs, sheep, goats, as well as horses and calves.

"I've learned what to do when one of my animals is sick, how to feed them; and gained hints and good ideas to get my projects ready for showing. But more than that, it's really helped me set goals and follow through.

This summer Sueanne raised 12 calves which she fed daily with milk from nine goats she owns. Her feeding routine took about two hours daily.

Her experience has been helpful to her family this past year as well since her father is temporarily employed out of state. That left the responsibility of running the farm to both she and her mother. "I know how to judge a good animal and what to look for when I'm buying livestock."

She is now attending Yakima Valley Community College where she is"getting the basics over" to pursue a pre-med course at a university. *(Beth McCormick)* ■

Gone Fishin'

Max Alleger spent this past summer as director of the Urban Fishing Program in Springfield, Missouri. The program is funded and run through the Missouri Department of Conservation, which is one of the nation's most highly respected state conservation agencies.

The goal of this program is to give people living in Missouri's metropolitan centers the opportunity to use that state's fishery and water resources. It targets primarily urban youth groups, handicapped adults and senior citizens—people who otherwise wouldn't get the chance to go fishing.

Max served as state secretary of the Missouri Association in 1984-85 and is currently a sophomore at the University of Missouri majoring in ag education with emphasis in conservation and renewable resource management.

As program director, Max was responsible for planning the day's activities, purchasing and caring for needed equipment and teching a class which covers outdoor ethics, fishing techniques and safety. "For a while, all I heard was what an easy job I had just 'getting paid to fish.' But have you ever tried to convince a four-year-old girl to put a squirming night-crawler on a hook? For some reason, every kid has got the idea that worms have sharp teeth!"

Patience and love for the outdoors are qualities Max needs to teach children and help other adults learn to fish.

Max was an active member of he Fair Grove FFA Chapter throughout high school, as well as holding an office on the area and state levels. Max said, "I guess my southern accent and down-to-earth attitude made me a natural for working with other FFA members, but this job has taught me to work with people from all walks of life. Springfield is Missouri's third largest city, so most of the people I work with have never heard of FFA.

"I've also been able to realize, from a new point of view, what lucky people FFA members really are. As FFA members we have opportunities each day that

He is in an unusual situation where he can cause others to respect the outdoors and the natural resources around them.

many people will never have. As people involved in agriculture we develop a close affinity with the land and the creatures we share it with. Without this program, many of the 2,000 people who took advantage of it would never get any closer to fishing than cleaning their goldfish bowl."

Max's interest in conservation began in high school when he worked on a 19-acre Christmas tree farm owned by a retired conservation agent. This fascination grew into an SOEP when Max experimented with the "cage-culture" growth of channel catfish in farm ponds. Since the program was new to the area, the Missouri Department of Conservation supported Max by supplying information and technical assistance. Max said, "The project took some unexpected turns, but it was worth the effort." It turned out to be a learning experience for everyone involved.

Max's conservation experience is more of a love than a job. He has accomplished many things in the conservation area, from a state proficiency award in Fish and Wildlife Management to his current conservation job. ■

Clean Sweep

The Mohall, North Dakota, Chapter came home from the district leadership conference in Minot as the outstanding chapter for 1985.

Mohall claimed the sweepstakes travelling trophy with 67 points followed by arch rival Velva with 61. Velva had won the sweepstakes honors the past three years.

The Mohall FFA parliamentary procedure team, led by chapter President Ronda Osterberg won first place and a gold award. Osterberg was selected as president of the day.

Other officers of the day for Mohall included Treasurer Joanne Ness and Reporter Becky Aberle.

The chapter demonstration team also earned a gold award and first place for their demonstration of logging on to the AgriData telecommunications network.

In all, the chapter earned six bonus points for first place victories, an accomplishment that proved crucial to winning the sweepstakes trophy. *(Becky Aberle, Reporter)* ■

School Forest Bombed

Avon Park, Florida. FFA school forest which is located on the Avon Park Air Force range was bombed by an Air Force pilot who either missed his target or a malfunction of weapons system on a jet fighter. According to John McCracken, advisor, the bomb landed dead center in a four-acre stand of newly planted slash pine seedlings. It burned almost everything inside the fire lanes. The area will be replanted next winter. The fire was contained inside the plowed lines but the trees are gone. ■

A Dunk For The Lady

The first funds and a report of an FFA activity to raise money for the Statue of Liberty restoration project have arrived at the National FFA Center.

The Wyoming State FFA Officers set up a dunking booth at their state fair and set themselves a goal of $500. They earned $509.59.

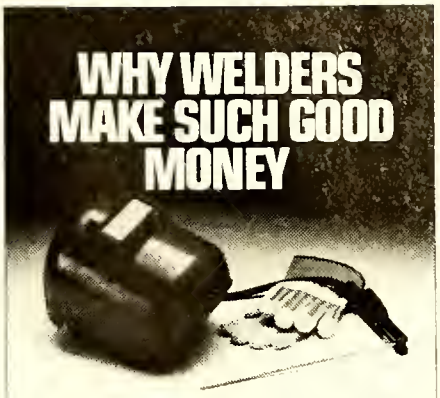
They usually opened the booth at 9 a.m. before the sun could really heat the water. And most nights it got down to 50 degrees. So it was no really warm summer day they endured for the Lady.

State FFA Treasurer Bill Shaffer takes his turn in the cold water of the dunking booth.

At the last National Convention, delegates proposed every chapter be challenged to contribute $20 for the restoration of the Statue of Liberty. National Officers have gathered ideas from their fellow state officers on fund raising ideas and published a booklet on how to raise money in each chapter.

Chapters should conduct a campaign and send the money to the National FFA Center by the last day of the year. ■

(Continued on Page 46)



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(Pick Up the Action from Page 45)

Exchanging Ideas

Exchanging ideas was the goal of the Goddard High School FFA Chapter of Roswell, New Mexico, when their chapter hosted ten graduate agriculture students from North Yemen.

Goddard's FFA program was the only high school program the Yemen students visited while in this country. The tour was organized by local members after they were contacted by Dr. Gene Ross who is the director of the foreign projects program with the extension department at New Mexico State University.

Five of these graduate students will be continuing their studies at New Mexico State University while the remaining students will return to Zigazag University in Egypt for further education.

The goal of the exchange trip was to teach the visiting students how to set up similar vocational agriculture programs in their country, located on the southwestern tip of Saudi Arabia on the Red Sea.

Greenhand president Darla Russell discusses raising lambs as a fair project with the North Yemen visitors.

Their tour began in Washington, D.C. with a tour of points of interest and the National FFA Center. Most of the exchange tour was spent in New Mexico because the climate of our state is very similar to their homeland.

When the Yemen students toured the vo-ag department, members exhibited livestock and mechanics projects and Advisor Purcella presented a program on developing advisory committees. ■

Tour Leaders

The North Hunterdon Chapter in Annandale, New Jersey, participated in the Quakertown Harvest Home Tour of the historical homes in the area.

This year, since many of the homes toured were active in agricultural production, the FFA was asked to provide members to act as tour guides. Vice President Amy Vodraska and Secretary Kathy Lettenmaier spent the day at the Blew Farm informing tourists about their swine operation. The Blew Farm was the first farm in New Jersey to be granted agricultural easement by the state of New Jersey.

Karen Wentc conducted bus tours pointing out historical sights and points of interest. ■

Watermelon Walk-Through

The Logan, New Mexico, FFA held a parent-student watermelon get-together. The main purpose was to inform parents of activities the chapter was involved in during the past year and to outline a few of the goals for the coming year.

The 1985-86 officer team presented the opening ceremony at the beginning of the evening. Then the officers gave short talks on the duties of their respective offices.

A few members presented some highlights of the year, such as leadership camp and state convention.

The 60 attending parents and students were then invited to enjoy slices of locally grown watermelon and stroll around the agriculture shop and view photographs and various awards and achievements earned by the chapter and different members during 1984-85. *(Ernest Cummings, Reporter)* ■

CROP SMORGASBOARD

A new type of landscaping was discovered by brainstorming with the Kimball, Minnesota, FFA'ers. Within the past year, an international crops display has been added to beautify the school. In 1984, it included 31 crops in 100 square feet. By 1985, 63 crops were planted in 7,000 square feet. The plots are 8 feet wide by 20 feet long.

By using computers to write letters asking for seeds, the tenth grade agriculture class received seeds from across the United States, as well as Brazil and Argentina.

For the FFA'ers it is a 12-month cycle of work. In the spring, we face the biggest challenge of planting. During the summer we must do extensive weeding since the use of herbicides is impractical. Come fall, we harvest the seeds for our FFA crops contest and the county and state fairs. During the winter, we are again busy writing letters for more seeds and repainting our signs which stand in front of the individual crops.

We mainly built the display as a BOAC project; however, it serves many purposes. It is used as an educational tool for the public, giving people a chance to see what a variety of crops look like. Through the BOAC project, we will also be "sprucing up" the school surroundings with different kinds of trees and shrubs besides the crops display.

On July 10, 1985, we held our first crops display open house. We distributed computer-made booklets containing information on where crops are grown and what they are used for. Here are examples of two entries in the booklet:

Crop name: Prolific corn. Location Grown: Not commercially grown. Importance and Use: Prolific corn is used by scientists in hybrid trials, but it is not practical in field use. This corn is also used by gardeners for decoration. This prolific corn was purchased from the Gurney's catalog. Other data: It is sometimes used by agriculture teachers to win bets with their peers, boasting about the fertility of their region.

Crop name: Pod Corn. Location Grown: Occurs rarely. Importance and Use: Used mainly for scientific studies and as an ornamental garden crop. Other Use: Pod corn has never been grown commercially because there is a husk on each kernel, making it hard to use. Some scientists believe pod corn may be the ancestor to all other corn. There is also a husk on the outside of the ear. This pod corn was donated by a local gardener. The University of Minnesota was unable to locate this type of corn for our demonstration plot.

Kimball FFA members led a crowd of over 100 through the display explaining the main points of the crops. Being extremely happy with our success, we celebrated with a pizza party at a member's house.

The unusual crops displays require lots of hard work to keep them presentable and make them a good public relations display. Crops included cotton, chickpea, spring triticale, sundangrass, flint corn, hull-less bean, sesame, buckwheat and yellow flax.

We had plenty of publicity before the open house. A local St. Cloud television station (KXLI) filmed the members before the event and televised it the night before. Six radio stations and two newspapers also advertised it.

We were also asked to make a miniature booth at the Minnesota State Fair. We made bundles of grains such as oats and barley. Some of the rarer crops not

native to the northern United States were also displayed.

Active members are always needed in the area of weed control. Since there are so many different types of crops, no one herbicide can be used. If you do use the herbicide, you must be careful so other plants aren't affected by it. All of the weed control was done by hand and/or by hoe. During the summer, members come once a week to weed their assigned crop. Next year, a diluted herbicide may be tried. *(Lynn Harff)* ■

Life Saving Class

The Ysleta, Texas, Chapter believes in having a membership and community that's safety conscious.

With that in mind, the Ysleta vocational agriculture department sponsored a first-aid/CPR short course for its members and guests from the community. Mr. Brian Summers, chief emergency medical technician with Emergency Medical Services of El Paso, was the resource speaker that enabled 70 FFA members, local Young Farmers and community members to become more proficient in basic emergency first-aid care.

Mr. Summers spoke on the importance of taking proper steps in actually reporting accidents to EMS personnel. He also utilized "Annie" to demonstrate the CPR techniques.

Often members wonder what immediate effect these safety efforts have on participants. One Ysleta FFA member, Lulu Gamon, could answer. Only one day after participating in the chapter safety short course, she saved the life of a young boy who had passed out and stopped breathing at a local religious service. Using what she had learned, she was able to give aid until emergency personnel arrived. *(Steve Forsythe, Advisor)* ■

They Saw Action

The Smithville, Ohio, FFA held its August chapter meeting at the Smithville Lawn and Garden Center. The evening's program was given by Clarence Troyer of the Stihl Chain Saw Company who showed movies about saw operation and safety.

Later, each member was given the opportunity to operate a saw. The program was concluded with Mr. Troyer turning a log into a chair using only a chain saw. *(Mindy Dodd, Reporter)* ■

A Tall Fish Tale

Nine members of the Eagle Point, Oregon, Chapter went on an overnight judging trip to Coos Bay. The trip was August 14-15 and the contest was held at the Coos County fairgrounds.

Each member judged six classes of dairy and six classes of livestock. In the diary competition the team received a first place banner. Those making up the team were Darin Brackett, Steven Brackett, Paul Deen and Chris Brackett, who was eighth high individual.

Early Thursday morning the team chartered a fishing boat and went on a four-hour salmon fishing trip. All together the students came home with 12 salmon. *(Jodi Anderson, Reporter)* ■

Washington Visitors

When Scott Barrington, Eric Feuerborn and Shawn Sparks of the Alex, Oklahoma, Chapter attended the Washington Leadership Conference program, they met Senator Gary Hart on the steps of the capitol. Most WCP participants visit with congressmen and senators during their trip to Washington. Your chapter should plan to send representatives next summer. Watch for details. ■

A Farmer Memorial

The Agricultural Hall of Fame and National Center of Kansas City, need your help in finding faces of farmers and rural people to cast in bronze for the National Farmers Memorial, to be dedicated at the Hall of Fame, June 14, 1986.

FFA members are invited to submit names of anyone—parents, grandparents—connected with agriculture, for a drawing to be held January 2, 1986, to identify the half dozen or so individuals who will have their faces preserved forever, on one of the three American Farmer (past, present and future) bronze murals that will be housed in an open air pavilion on the grounds of the Agricultural Hall of Fame near Kansas City.

List the name, address and appropriate age of your candidate at the top of a sheet of paper. Then in 100 words or less tell why you think this person deserves to be honored by having their face on the Memorial. Sign it with complete and correct address and telephone number, so you can be notified.

Send nominations to Farmers Memorial Fund, c/o Agricultural Hall of Fame, 630 North 126th St., Bonner Springs, KS 66012.

Light in Their Eyes

"It's fun to watch the kids' eyes light up!" was the reaction of FFA members in Ponca City, Oklahoma, after the chapter's children's barnyard. It is the most visited spot at the county Fair.

About 15 different kinds of animals were on display for the children to hold, pet and occasionally feed.

Also on display was an incubator with a number of chick eggs and also quail eggs. The eggs hatched daily during the fair as children came by. *(Joe Harmon, Reporter)* ■

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The Joke Page

There were three strings that went into a restaurant. The first string asked the waiter for a soda. *"Sorry, we don't serve strings here,"* replied the waiter. The second string asked for a soda. Again, the waiter said, *"Sorry, we don't serve strings here."* The third string watched all of this and decided to do something different. He tied himself up in a knot and frayed his ends. Then he asked the waiter for a soda. The waiter said, *"Coming right up!"* When the waiter served the drink, he asked, *"You're not a string, are you?"*

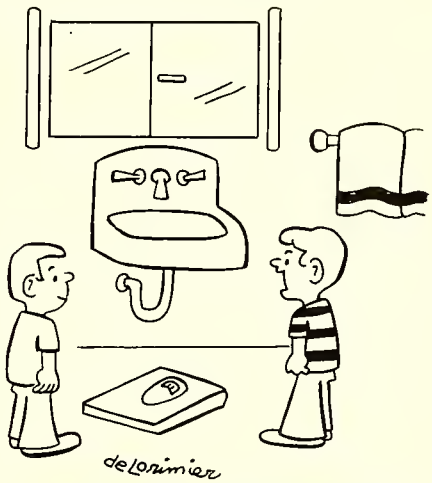
The string answered, *"No, I'm a frayed knot."*

Lindy Murff
Crosby, Texas

As the Sunday school teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, little Norman interrupted.

"My mother looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, *"and she turned into an electric pole."*

Grace Shepherd
Marana, Arizona



"It must have something to do with farming. Every time my mother gets on it, my dad says 'what a cow.'"

When my brother Jason started the first grade, writing was his most difficult subject. He soon mastered most of the letters but he couldn't get the hang of the letter "S." Every day his class practiced writing the date and every day the teacher corrected the first letter of the word "September" on his paper. After days of this, I suggested that Jason and I work on the intricacies of the "S" together.

"Ah, the heck with it," Jason replied, *"next week it will be October."*

Dean Walker
Rush City, Minnesota

A farmer was told by his doctor that his wife should have had her tonsils out when she was a little girl. He had the operation performed—and sent the bill to his father-in-law.

Oliver Frazier
Rock Hall, Maryland

A Babylonian general was declared a traitor for leading a revolt. He escaped the night before he was to be executed and hid in an old Babylonian ziggurat, or temple, where he expected to find some of his associates. Not finding them, he began to burn the papers they had left, and was immediately recaptured.

The moral: Warning—The searchin' general has determined that smoking ziggurats may be hazardous to your stealth.

Angela Waicekauskas
Raymondville, Missouri

Tom: *"Should I become a barber or write a collection of short stories?"*

Tim: *"Toss a coin, heads or tales."*

Dean Walker
Rush City, Minnesota

"Can't you read?" asked the officer.

"Why, certainly. The sign says 'Fine for Parking.'"

Tammy Horal
Hico, Texas

Clem: *"How come there were so many people in church Sunday?"*

Agnes: *"Well, the minister told everyone he was going to preach on the 'Forty Worst Sins.' I guess some of the people came to find out which ones they were missing!"*

Gale Wilson
Elgin, Oregon

A store owner wondered how his clerk was living in a penthouse and driving an expensive car on a salary of $90 a week. He asked the clerk who said, *"I sell 1,000 raffle tickets a week at $1 apiece."*

The owner asked *"What are you raffling off?"*

The clerk replied, *"My paycheck."*

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

"You mean you stopped drinking just because she asked you to? And you gave up cigarettes for the same reason? And you stopped gambling and racing cars just for her?"

"I did."

"Then why didn't you marry her?"

"Well, I figured I had become such a clean cut, desirable fellow, that I could do better."

Tony Williams
Ellsworth, Wisconsin

Charlie, the Greenhand

"You'll be glad to hear that I let Guiness' Book of Records know about the number of consecutive days you got up late . . . !"

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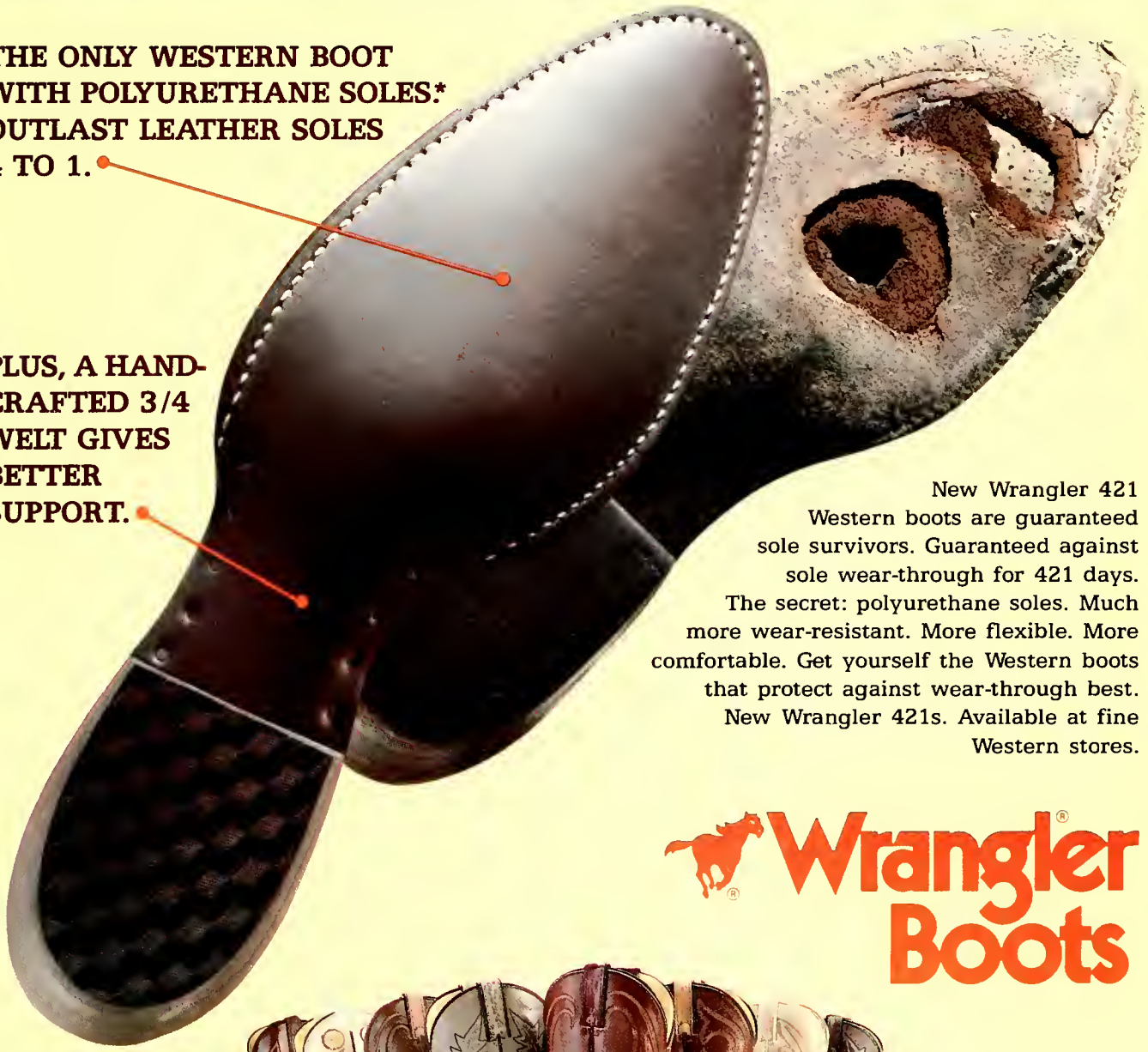

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